

**2024 Accessibility Study Companion:
Based on the 2024 *International
Building Code*® and ICC A117.1-2017,
Accessible and Usable Buildings and
Facilities**

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ISBN: 978-1-964970-34-9 (soft-cover edition)
ISBN: 978-1-964970-35-6 (PDF download)

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First Printing: June 2025

PRINTED IN THE USA

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INTRODUCTION

This study companion provides practical learning assignments for independent study of the accessibility provisions contained in the 2024 International Building Code® (IBC®) and ICC A117.1-2017, Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities. The independent study format affords a method for the student to complete the program in an unregulated time period. Progressing through the workbook, the learner can measure his or her level of knowledge by using the exercises and quizzes provided for each study session.

The workbook is also valuable for instructor-led programs. In jurisdictional training sessions, community college classes, vocational training programs and other structured educational offerings, the study guide, IBC and ICC A117.1 can be the basis for classroom instruction.

All study sessions begin with a general learning objective specific to the session, the specific code/standard sections or chapter under consideration and a list of questions summarizing the key points of study. Each session addresses selected accessibility topics and includes IBC or ICC A117.1 text, a commentary on the provisions, illustrations representing the provisions under discussion and multiple choice questions that can be used to evaluate the student's knowledge. Before beginning the quizzes, the student should thoroughly review the IBC and ICC A117.1, focusing on the key points identified at the beginning of each study session.

The workbook is structured so that after every question the student has an opportunity to record their response and the corresponding reference. The correct answers are found in the back of the workbook in the answer key.

This study companion was originally developed by Doug Thornburg, Vice President and Technical Director, Products and Services for the International Code Council. This latest edition was updated to the 2024 IBC and 2017 A117.1 standard by Jay Woodward, Senior Staff Architect at ICC and by George Mann.

The information presented in this publication is believed to be accurate; however, it is provided for informational purposes and is intended for use only as a guide. As there is a limited discussion of selected provisions, the IBC and ICC A117.1 should always be referenced for more complete information. In addition, the commentary set forth may not necessarily represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations.

Questions or comments concerning this study companion are encouraged. Please direct your comments to ICC at studycompanion@iccsafe.org.

Information regarding the A117.1-2017 edition:

The 2017 edition of the A117.1 standard contains several substantial changes that people who are familiar with the document should be aware of. These important changes include not only modified technical requirements, but also some scoping limitations which will impact existing buildings.

New to the 2017 edition are enhanced dimensions for clear floor spaces and turning spaces. These increases were in response to technical data regarding the space needed by persons using scooters and some types of motorized wheelchairs. These enhanced provisions only apply to new buildings and facilities. Where existing buildings and facilities are remodeled, the historic dimensions will still apply.

Other changes include exterior routes, curb cuts, blended transitions, clarity for detectable warnings, passenger drop offs and parking requirements coordinated with the federal Public Rights of Way Guidelines, providing an accessible design standard for electrical vehicle charging stations and enhanced safety for accessible routes crossing parking lots. Also introduced are acoustic standards for classrooms, features allowing for better communication for persons using sign language, provisions addressing the recharging of wheelchairs in assembly venues and hotels, access to gaming machines and tables, and provisions for water bottle filling stations.

While the 2017 edition of the standard maintained the historic dimensions for our Type B units and therefore continues to provide coordination between the accessible provisions of this standard and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines (FHAG), the enhanced dimensions for new construction will exceed those required by the 2010 Standard for Accessible Design which is referenced by both the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). It is important that all users of the A117.1 standard are aware that revisions were made to allow the historic dimensions to be used in existing buildings even when they undergo an alteration. Examples of this important change can be seen in the provisions such as in the turning space requirements of Section 304, the clear floor space provisions of Section 305 and the width requirements for turns in the accessible route within Sections 403.5.2 and 403.5.3. The importance of understanding that an “existing building” or “existing facility” can continue to use the historic dimensions matching the 2009 edition of the A117.1 (which matches the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design) cannot be overstated.

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The International Code Council is the leading global source of model codes and standards and building safety solutions that include product evaluation, accreditation, technology, codification, consulting, training and certification. The International Code Council's codes, standards and solutions are used to ensure safe, affordable and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide.

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