SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

A117.1 ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD®

2017 EDITION

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE A117.1 ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD®

2017 EDITION

Jay Woodward, Author

International Code Council

ICC Staff :

Executive Vice President and Director of Business Development: Mark A. Johnson

Senior Vice President, Business and Product Development: Hamid Naderi

Vice President and Technical Director of Products and Services: Doug Thornburg

Senior Marketing Specialist: Dianna Hallmark

ISBN: 978-1-60983-709-9

Cover Design: Lisa Triska
Project Head: Hamid Naderi
Publications Manager: Mary Lou Luif

Errata on various ICC publications may be available at www.iccsafe.org/errata.

First Printing: November 2017

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

This table of contents includes references from sections that are covered with a related topic elsewhere in the book. The changes and their summary could easily be overlooked since the topic is not covered in the sequential order but is instead addressed with a related change. These hidden or less apparent changes are identified by two methods in the table of contents. The "hidden" changes are indented in the table of contents and include a reference to "See page" prior to the page number. The section numbers of these hidden changes are also shown enclosed in brackets. The number following the bracket is the section numbering shown with the actual page in the book where the discussion occurs.

For example, if you look between Sections 802.7.2 and 802.10.4 you will see an entry for "(802.10.3.1) 906, 802.10.3.1, 1102.15.4, Charging Stations, See page 140." This entry indicates that there was a change affecting Sections 802.10.3.1 and 1102.15.4 and the "Charging Station" requirements that are covered in the discussion with Section 906 on page 140 of the book. Combining related subjects like this allowed for additional topics to be included in the book and will also help show how changes relate to similar topics in other parts of the standard.

Chapter 5. General Site and Building Elements

Chapter 6. Plumbing Elements and Facilities

Chapter 11. Dwelling Units and Sleeping Units

Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the A117.1 Standard* is to familiarize code officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the 2017 A117.1 standard. This publication is designed to assist all users of the standard with identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, understanding the reasons behind the changes and how they will affect accessibility. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in their adopting process.

Only a portion of the total number of changes to the A117.1 standard are discussed in this book. The changes selected were identified for a number of reasons, including their frequency of application, special significance, or change in application. However, the importance of those changes not included is not to be diminished.

This book is organized to follow the general layout of the standard, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant changes that occur in the 2017A117.1 standard.

Throughout the book, each change is accompanied by a photograph or an illustration to assist and enhance the reader's understanding of the specific change. A summary and a discussion of the significance of the changes are also provided. Each code change is identified by type, be it an addition, modification, clarification, or deletion.

The change to the text of the standard itself is presented in a format similar to the style utilized for submitting and reviewing proposed changes. Text deleted from the standard is shown with a strike-through, whereas new text that is added is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual text of the 2017 standard is provided as well as a comparison with the 2009 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific text.

As with any code-change document, *Significant Changes to the A117.1 Standard* is best used as a study companion to the *ICC A117.1-2017* standard. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the standard itself should always be referenced in order to gain a

more comprehensive understanding of a specific change and its application.

The commentary and opinions set forth in this text are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ICC and are not to be considered as the opinion of the A117.1 Accredited Standards Committee. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcement agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to provide a review and approval process. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the proponent of the change or by the A117.1 committee during its evaluation of the proposal.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to the ICC at *significantchanges@iccsafe.org*.

About the A117.1 Standard

Building officials, design professionals, and others involved with building construction and accessibility recognize the need for a modern, easy-to-understand, up-to-date standard addressing the design and construction of elements that serve or are used by building occupants. The A117.1 standard, in the 2017 edition, is intended to meet these needs by providing the technical details to ensure that the buildings and facilities are accessible and usable. The A117.1 standard is kept up to date through an open development process that meets the requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) so that it can be recognized as an American National Standard (ANS). The provisions of the 2009 edition, along with those changes approved through the current development cycle, make up the 2017 edition.

The 1961 edition of the A117.1 standard presented the first criteria for accessibility to be approved as an ANS and was the result of research conducted by the University of Illinois under a grant from the Easter Seal Research Foundation. The National Easter Seal Society and the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities began serving as the Secretariat, and the 1961 edition was reaffirmed in 1971.

In 1974, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development joined the Secretariat and sponsored needed research, which resulted in the 1980 edition. After further revision that included a special effort to remove application criteria (scoping requirements), the 1986 edition was published. In 1987 the committee requested that the Council of American Building Officials (CABO) assume the role of the Secretariat. Central to the intent of the change in the Secretariat was the development of a standard that, when adopted as part of a building code, would be compatible with the building code and its enforcement. The 1998 edition of the A117.1 standard largely achieved that goal. The 2017 edition of the standard is the latest example of the A117.1 committee's effort to continue developing a standard that is compatible with the building code. In 1998 CABO became the International Code Council.

The ICC, the current Secretariat and publisher of the A117.1, was established as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, maintaining, and supporting a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national

model building construction codes. Its mission is to provide the highest quality codes, standards, products, and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment.

The A117.1 is one of 8 standards and 14 international codes being developed and published by the ICC. This comprehensive standard establishes minimum requirements to ensure that buildings and facilities are accessible and usable. The A117.1 is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference, in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws.

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 larger wheeled mobility devices (e.g., manual or powered wheelchairs and scooters). Other changes include exterior routes, curb cuts, blended transitions, clarity for detectable warnings, passenger drop offs and parking requirements coordinated with the proposed 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. These revisions show the committee's continued effort to improve people's lives and address a variety of disabilities and solutions.

Acknowledgments

A special thank you is extended to Kim Paarlberg, Senior Staff Architect in the ICC's Codes and Standards Development department, and to Kermit C. Robinson, Senior Technical Staff, who among many other tasks, serves as the Secretariat for the ICC A117.1 Accessibility Standard. Kim and Kermit's efforts to read, review and explain to me the background of some items as well as their assistance in finding photos or illustrations truly helped to improve this publication. I would also like to thank Marsha Mazz, as well as other committee members who helped explain the new requirements to me. The entire A117.1 committee should be recognized for their effort and dedication in developing the new provisions and maintaining the standard. Their efforts truly do impact and improve people's lives.

About the Author

Jay Woodward
International Code Council

Jay is a senior staff architect with the ICC's Business and Product Development department and works out of the Lenexa, Kansas, Distribution Center. His current responsibilities include instructing ICC seminars, updating existing ICC products and assisting in the development of new ICC publications.

With more than 35 years of experience in building design, construction, code enforcement, and instruction, Jay's experience provides him with the ability to address issues of code application and design for code enforcement personnel as well as architects, designers, and contractors. Jay has previously served as the Secretariat for the ICC's A117.1 standard committee, the *International Energy Conservation Code* and the *International Building Code's* Fire Safety Code Development committee.

A graduate of the University of Kansas and a registered architect, Jay has also worked as an architect for the Leo A. Daly Company in Omaha, Nebraska; as a building Plans Examiner for the City of Wichita, Kansas; and as a Senior Staff Architect for the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) prior to working for the ICC.

About the ICC

The International Code Council is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes. ICC Evaluation Service® (ICC-ES®) is the industry leader in performing technical evaluations for code compliance fostering safe and sustainable design and construction.

500 New Jersey Avenue, NW,
6th Floor,
Washington, DC 20001

Regional Offices: Birmingham, AL;
Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA
1-888-422-7233 (ICC-SAFE)
www.iccsafe.org