

ICC A117.1—2026  
Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities

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Canine Companions (<https://canine.org>) is leading the service dog industry so clients and their dogs can live with greater independence. The organization provides service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings. Founded in 1975, their dogs and all follow-up services have been provided at no cost to clients.

ICC and Canine Companions both support the goal of creating safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable buildings and communities.



## FOREWORD

(The information contained in this foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. As such, this foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the standard.)

### Development

The 1961 edition of ANSI Standard A117.1 presented the first criteria for accessibility to be approved as an American National Standard 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 became members of 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. When requested in 1987, the Council of American Building Officials (CABO) assumed 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, the standard would be compatible with the building code and its enforcement. The 1998 edition largely achieved that goal. The 2026 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 (ICC). The International Code Council (ICC) became the secretariat in 1998 when CABO became ICC. The 2026 edition marks the 39th anniversary of the ICC Secretariat of the standard.

The 2017 edition included 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 dimensions provided for the existing building will still apply. These dimensions are those listed in the 2009 A117.1 and are consistent with the 2010 ADA Standard dimensions.

The 2026 edition has added definitions for the building block elements in Chapter 3. This clarifies that the use of the defined term includes the requirements for that item in Chapter 3. The scope of the standard has been expanded to include provisions for assisted toileting and bathing as well as adult changing tables to address the needs of people with disabilities that may need assistance with toileting and bathing. Chapter 6 now includes three options for bathtubs and five options for showers, along with clarifications for controls and hand-showers. Other changes include a new approach for access to outlets over kitchen counters; criteria for EV charging stations; contrast requirements for stripes on stairways and signage; and new topics such as rinsing showers, pet washing stations, self-service checkout counters and waste/linen chutes.

This edition of ICC A117.1 continues to meet or exceed the accessible provisions of this standard, the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines (FHAG), the 2010 Standard for Accessible Design referenced by the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

### ANSI Approval

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Accredited Standards Committee A117 on Architectural Features and Site Design of Public Buildings and Residential Structures for Persons with Disabilities. ANSI approved the 2026 edition on March 16, 2026. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all Committee members voted for its approval.

### Adoption

ICC A117.1—2026 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.

### Interpretations

Requests for interpretations on the provisions of ICC A117.1—2026 should be addressed to: ICC, Chicago District Office, 4051 W. Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795.

## FOREWORD

### Maintenance—Submittal of Proposals

All ICC standards are revised as required by ANSI. Proposals for revising this edition are welcome. Please visit the ICC website at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org) for the official “Call for proposals” announcement. A proposal form and instructions can also be downloaded from [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

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### Marginal Markings

Solid vertical lines in the margins within the body of the standard indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2017 edition. Deletion indicators in the form of an arrow (➡) are provided in the margin where an entire section, paragraph, exception or table has been deleted or an item in a list of items or a table has been deleted.

A single asterisk [\*] placed in the margin indicates that text or a table has been relocated within the code. A double asterisk [\*\*] placed in the margin indicates that the text or table immediately following it has been relocated there from elsewhere in the code.

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 Kenneth M. Schoonover, PE (P)

### Acknowledgment

The updating of this standard over the past 9 years could only be accomplished by the hard work of not only the current committee members listed at the time of approval but also the many committee members who participated and contributed to the process over the course of development. ICC recognizes their contributions as well as those of the participants who, although not on the committee, provided valuable input during this update cycle.

The A117.1 standard committee would like to take a moment to recognize the members of the committee who were unable to see the fruits of their labor from this past cycle come to completion. Much of what has been accomplished would not have been possible without their contributions, expertise and passion for providing access to the disabled communities in the built environment. This edition of the standard will be a lasting tribute to their memory and a reminder for those who serve on the committee of what may be accomplished.

Todd Andersen, Individual member  
 Kermit Robinson, International Code Council (ICC)  
 Christopher Bell, American Council of the Blind (ACB)  
 Marilyn Golden, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)  
 Mike Tierney, Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association, Inc. (BHMA)  
 Hale Zukas, World Institute of Disability (WID)

## Interest Categories

**Builder/Owner/Operator (BO)** – Members in this category include those in the private sector involved in the development, construction, ownership and operation of buildings or facilities; and their respective associations.

**Consumer/User (CU)** – Members in this category include those with disabilities, or others who require accessibility features in the built environment for access to buildings, facilities and sites; and their respective associations.

**Producer/Distributor (PD)** – Members in this category include those involved in manufacturing, distributing, or sales of products; and their respective associations.

**Professional (P)** – Members in this category include those qualified to engage in the development of the body of knowledge and policy relevant to their area of practice, such as research, testing, consulting, education, engineering or design; and their respective associations.

**Regulatory (R)** – Members in this category include federal agencies, representatives of regulatory agencies or organizations that promulgate or enforce codes or standards; and their respective associations.

**Individual Expert (IE)** (Nonvoting) – Members in this category are individual experts selected to assist the consensus body. Individual experts shall serve for a renewable term of one year and shall be subject to approval by vote of the consensus body. Individual experts shall have no vote.

### Voting Membership in Each Category

| CATEGORY                      | NUMBER            |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Builder/Owner/Operator - (BO) | 7                 |
| Consumer/User - (CU)          | 8                 |
| Professional - (P)            | 14 (3 individual) |
| Producer/Distributor - (PD)   | 9 (1 individual)  |
| Regulatory - (R)              | 9                 |
| <b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>          | <b>48</b>         |

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