

# **Accessible design for the built environment**

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### **In Memoriam**

This edition of B651 is dedicated to David Rapson, our colleague and friend who contributed significantly to this Standard as a member of the Technical Committee.

## Preface

### **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006, this ground-breaking, legally binding UN Convention promotes, protects, and ensures that persons with disabilities have the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights — a major step towards equalizing their opportunities and participation in society.

This is the fourth edition of B651, **Accessible design for the built environment**. It supersedes a previous 2004 edition, and two earlier editions entitled **Barrier-Free Design**, published in 1995 and 1990.

This Standard contains requirements for making buildings and other facilities accessible to persons with a range of physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities. It was developed to fulfill an expressed need for a national technical standard that covers many different types of buildings and environmental facilities, and can be referenced in whole or in part by a variety of adopting agencies or jurisdictions.

The Technical Committee on Accessible Design has also produced two related Standards, CSA B651.1-09, **Accessible design for automated banking machines**, and CAN/CSA-B651.2-07, **Accessible design for self-service interactive devices**.

This Standard does not have the force of law unless mandated by legislation or called up in the regulations of an authority having jurisdiction. The user is advised to contact the local authority having jurisdiction in this field to determine to what extent this edition of the Standard is referenced.

Users should understand that the requirements in this Standard are minimum levels. The technical requirements result from a consensus of the Technical Committee members, who represent a broad spectrum of interests. The members are helped and encouraged by the public comments received as a result of the wide distribution of a draft at the public review stage.

Significant changes to this edition include the following:

- (a) restructuring of the content to make it more logical and easier to locate, follow, and reference particular clauses;
- (b) expanded clauses that include
  - (i) new requirements for rights-of-way; and
  - (ii) new definitions;
- (c) altered or additional requirements for
  - (i) tactile walking surface indicators;
  - (ii) standard and universal washrooms; and
  - (iii) residential accommodation; and
- (d) a new **Annex F** on References for accessible outdoor recreational environments.

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Accessible Design, under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Steering Committee on Community Safety and Well-Being, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

May 2012

**Notes:**

- (1)** Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.
- (2)** Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.
- (3)** This publication was developed by consensus, which is defined by **CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization** as “substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity”. It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this publication.
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  - (d) rationale for the change.

# B651-12

## Accessible design for the built environment

### 1 Scope

#### 1.1 Purpose

This Standard specifies technical requirements on how to make buildings and the exterior built environment accessible and safely usable by persons with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.

#### Commentary:

- (1) Temporary buildings and facilities provided for public use should also comply with the technical requirements of this Standard. Such temporary facilities may include teaching spaces, reviewing stands, exhibit areas, bleachers, first-aid facilities, or pedestrian passageways around construction sites.
- (2) Where public access is permitted during construction, renovation, or maintenance of a facility or an exterior environment, the requirements of this Standard should be respected to provide safe and equitable use for everyone.
- (3) Some people with disabilities may have requirements beyond the levels addressed in this Standard.

#### 1.2 Application

This Standard describes technical requirements that can be used in the design and construction of new facilities or exterior environments, or in modifications to existing facilities. This Standard does not address the application of the technical requirements. The extent to which these requirements have to be applied is the responsibility of other authorities having jurisdiction.

#### 1.3 Dimensions

This Standard contains minimum requirements based on adult dimensions. Dimensions are given in SI (metric) units (typically in