

**U.S. DOT Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Passenger and Freight Programs**

Monitoring Procedure 35 – Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Review

1.0 PURPOSE

This Monitoring Procedure describes the Monitoring and Technical Assistance Contractor's (MTAC) review and analysis of the Grantee's compliance with the regulations and guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation implementing the transportation provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38).

2.0 KEY PRINCIPLES

The review should focus on the provision of access to:

1. Stations and the public areas of maintenance facilities, including the approach from the public way
2. The passenger train car including how access is achieved from the station platform
3. Services within stations and passenger cars such as ticket counters, restrooms, drinking fountains, circulation, and seating

3.0 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The MTAC will obtain and study relevant project materials from the Grantee, such as:

1. Stations and maintenance facilities
 - a. Facility site plans
 - a. Building plans, sections, elevations, including plans and sections through the station platform and doorway of passenger cars to show platform height, length, width, path of travel, and any obstructions on the platform.
 - b. Track plans at and in the vicinity of facilities
 - c. Information on freight operations and track usage at and in the vicinity of facilities
2. Vehicles and vehicle boarding devices (i.e., bridgeplates, ramps, or lifts)
 - a. Plans, sections, and elevations

4.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The MTAC shall review projects in relation to the references in Section 5 below. During each phase – planning, preliminary engineering, final design, and construction – the MTAC will assess the Grantee's compliance with ADA, identify discrepancies and deficiencies, and make recommendations for modifications or additional work to be performed by the Grantee. If there is non-compliance or there are serious impediments to compliance, the MTAC will notify FRA immediately. The FRA may ask the MTAC to recommend other infrastructure or service approaches to the Grantee, or to convene a workshop to discuss alternative possibilities with the Grantee.

4.1 Transportation Facilities

The MTAC should check the design and construction of transportation facilities include stations, maintenance facilities, transit connections, and other related features.

For the transition from the platform into the train car, if a means other than level-entry boarding is proposed, the Grantee must submit an analysis for each condition (each station, each platform) and submit a plan to FRA as provided in 49 CFR 37.42(c).

The review should include at least the following aspects of facilities:

1. Accessible Routes: Accessible routes provide a continuous unobstructed path connecting the architectural or mechanical components of a site and facility, including public interior spaces within facilities.
2. Exterior Elements:
 - Walkways/bikeways from public sidewalks to the building and platform
 - Transition from the platform into the passenger train car
 - Signage
 - Platforms
 - Ramps, stairs, elevators
 - Passenger loading zones including transit transfer and auto drop-off
 - Parking
3. Interior Elements
 - Doorways, circulation route, ramps, stairs, elevators
 - Service counters, restrooms, drinking fountains, seating
 - Communication systems (public address, fire alarm, assistive listening, clock, phone)
 - Signage

4.2 Passenger Train Cars

1. The MTAC should do a compliance check on the vehicle design and manufacture including the following car elements:
 - Signage
 - Doorways, thresholds, floors, steps
 - Circulation, handrails, and stanchions
 - Seating accommodation
 - Lighting, foot-candles of illumination for open doorways
 - Public information system
 - Restrooms
 - Level change mechanisms and/or boarding devices such as car lifts, car ramps, and bridge plates
2. Check compliance against the following standards:
 - d. 49 CFR Part 38:
 - i. Subpart F contains minimum design standards for intercity railcars and systems
 - ii. Subpart H contains minimum design standards for high speed rail systems
 - e. 49 CFR Part 27:
 - i. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, applicable to all Federal grantees
 - ii. Requires services be provided in the most integrated setting reasonably achievable

- f. U.S. DOT Guidance: “What Accessibility Standards Apply to Passenger Rail Cars When Specific Design Standards Are Not Provided In 49 CFR Part 38?”, December 2012
- g. Specifications developed by the Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC). Public law 110-432 PRIIA Section 305 required Amtrak to establish such a committee of representatives of Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration, host freight railroad companies, passenger railroad equipment manufacturers, interested States, and, as appropriate, other passenger railroad operators, to design, develop specifications for, and procure standardized next-generation corridor equipment.

5.0 REFERENCES – SEE MP 01