



City of Santa Monica
Building and Safety Division



Accessible Counter at Food/ Drink Serving Facility

Effective: 05-08-2013
Revised: 08-14-2017

BACKGROUND

California Access civil laws and regulations promulgated in the California Building Code (CBC) Title 24, Part 2 ensure equal access for people with disabilities by prohibiting their exclusions from everyday activities, such as buying an item at the store, watching a movie in a theater, enjoying a meal at a local restaurant, exercising at the local health club or having the car serviced at a local garage. In providing equal access, every effort must be exhausted to ensure that access is being provided on equal terms, without highlighting any special accommodations, and without any special assistance similar to the required unassisted entry usually provided to gain access. As such, people with disabilities are able to dine or work at a restaurant as well as an able-bodied individual and enjoy the same experience afforded to the general public.

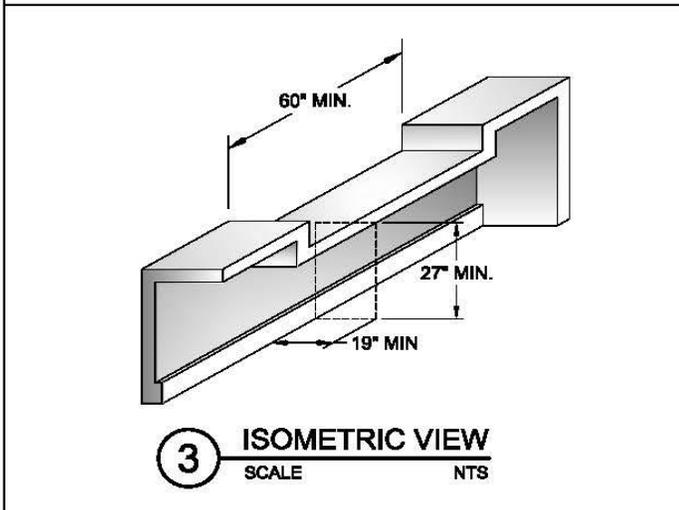
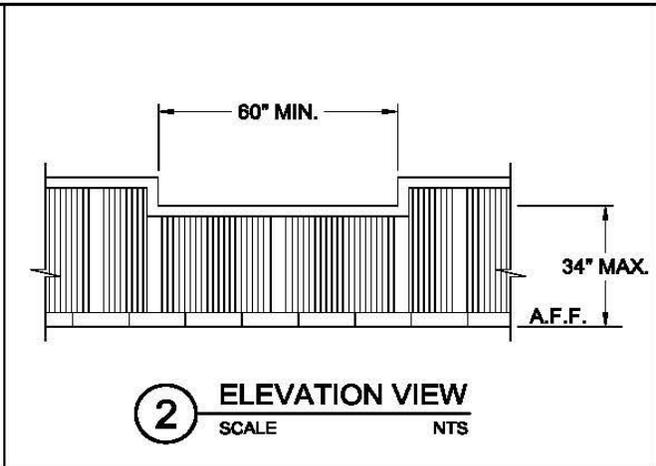
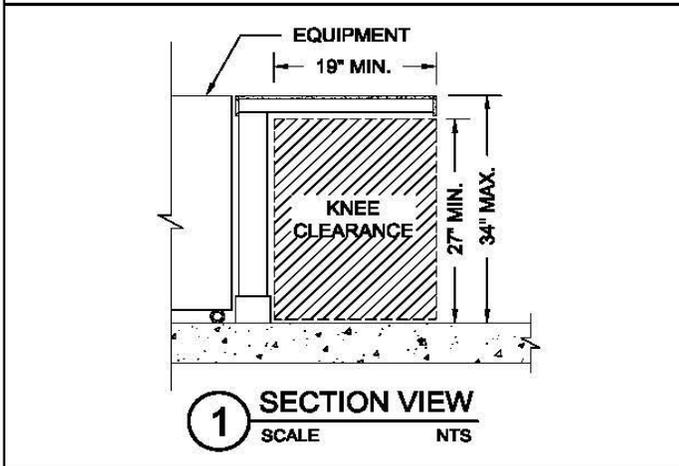
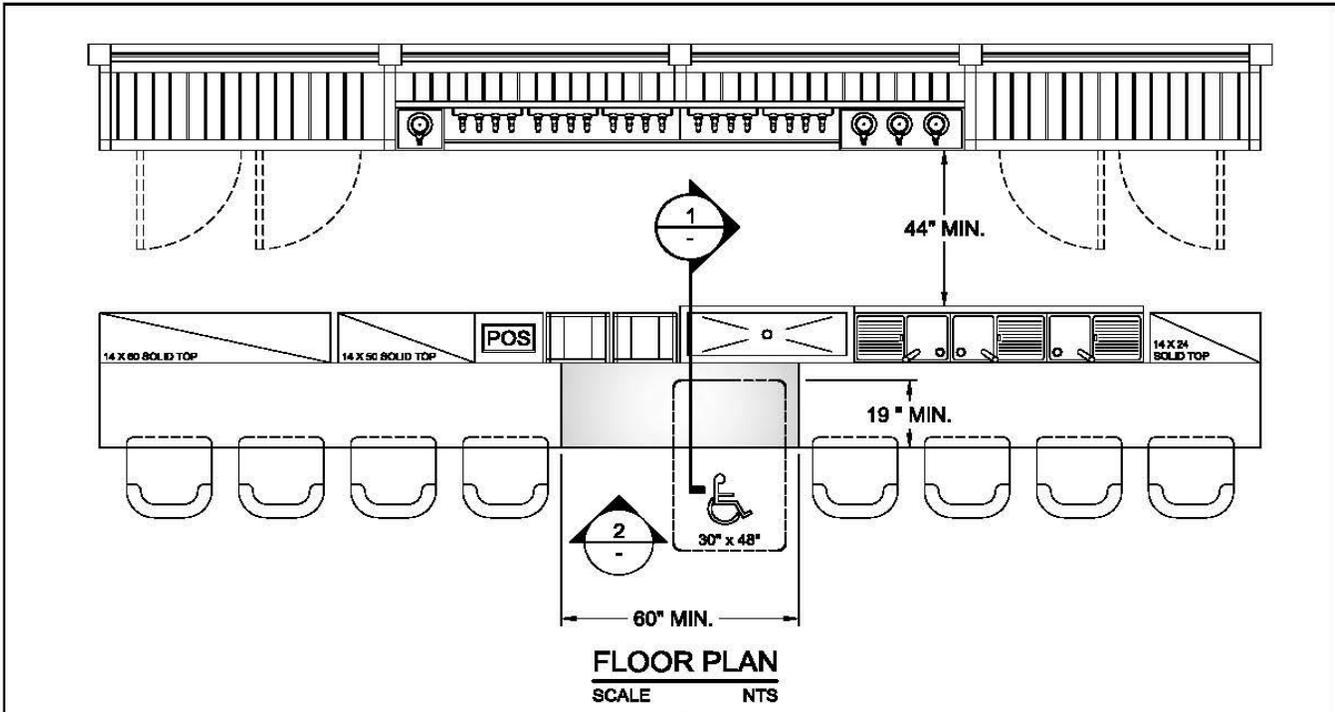
ACCESSIBLE COUNTER IN DINING AND DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS

In new construction, CBC Section 11B-226 requires that dining surfaces for the consumption of food or drink, at least 5 percent of the seating and standing spaces shall be provided per functional area. Such seating shall be designed and arranged to permit use by wheelchair occupants, and shall comply with CBC Section 11B-902 **Dining surfaces and work surfaces**. Furthermore, a restaurant bar counter, where the customer is served drinks and food, is required to comply with 11B-227.3 **Counters** and 11B-904.4 **Sales and service counters**. The accessible portion of the restaurant bar countertop functions as a service and sales counter and shall extend the same depth as the non-accessible countertop surface. Accessible eating spaces shall be integrated with general seating to allow a reasonable selection of seating area to avoid having one area specifically highlighted as the area for persons with disabilities. The ratio of accessible seating is based on the total number seats provided. Where food or drink is served at counters exceeding 34 inches in height for consumption by customers seated or standing at the counter, a portion of the main counter that is 60 inches in length minimum shall be provided in compliance with CBC Section 11B-226.3.

The dedicated accessible counter surface must be located and integrated with the general seating so that to provide the same experience including viewing experience otherwise afforded to the general public without highlighting the space with different colors, shapes, or finishes. For example, the accessible lowered counter space at bar counters or food preparations viewing areas should be designed without any obstruction such as lip or back splash so that the view behind the counter is unobstructed similar to the non-accessible counter surface.

Self-service restaurants with a food service line must provide adequate maneuvering space for a person using a wheelchair to approach and move through the line.

Please refer to the attached exhibit for illustration



GENERAL NOTES:

THESE DIAGRAMS ILLUSTRATE THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THESE REGULATIONS AND ARE INTENDED ONLY AS AN AID FOR BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

