

Handrail Compliance to ADA Accessibility Guidelines

Various elements of handrail design and installation are addressed in the *ADA Accessibility Guidelines For Buildings and Facilities* as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 36, appendix A. All handrails offered by Wallguard.com are compliant with these guidelines.

Section 4.1 of the guidelines describes the basic scope and technical requirements of accessible elements and spaces. It is stated throughout this section that "All objects that protrude from surfaces or posts into circulation paths shall comply with 4.4". Section 4.4 *Protruding Objects* states that objects mounted between 27" and 80" above the finished floor must not protrude more than 4" into paths of circulation such as corridors and hallways. All Wallguard.com handrails are comfortably under this 4" limit.

Handrails are directly addressed in section 4.26 *Handrails, Grab Bars, and Tub and Shower Seats*. This section of the guidelines states that "the diameter or width of the gripping surfaces of a handrail or grab bar shall be 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" or the shape shall provide an equivalent gripping surface." This section goes on to say that for handrails mounted adjacent to a wall, the space between the wall and handrail shall be 1 1/2". All of Wallguard.com's handrails comply with these guidelines.

Sections 4.8 *Ramps* and 4.9 *Stairs* reference the need for handrails on certain ramps and in all stairways. While each section requires that handrails comply with 4.26, additional guidelines are provided to address specific aspects of ramp and stairway construction. For example, "The inside handrail on switchback or dogleg stairs shall always be continuous." Wallguard.com's handrails are designed for use in corridors and hallways and are not practical for use in such stairwells or ramps.