



ADA Guidelines for Access Control

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) was passed to prohibit discrimination and ensure equal access for persons with disabilities in employment, government services, public accommodations, transportation, and commercial facilities. Some of the guidelines and requirements from this law can be applied to access control. Because many local municipalities have much stricter standards than the ADA, PTI strongly recommends that owners, builders, and installers consult a qualified expert in the local, state, and federal interpretations of ADA and other similar laws. For more information about ADA, visit the Department of Justice ADA website at www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/ or call the ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301.

Recommendations for Sites

ADA and other similar laws are open to interpretation by local authorities and courts. It is in your best interest to familiarize yourself with the complete requirements for ADA and other similar local laws. The most important thing however is to work to provide reasonable access to your services by persons of all abilities. Below are some recommendations that may help with this.

1. Contact a local inspector or architect who can provide assistance in designing the access to your facility with respect to ADA and other similar laws.
2. Visit the ADA website or call the information line listed above.
3. Provide adequate, well lit signs (written, picture, and Braille).
4. Design hallways with adequate room for customers in wheelchairs.
5. Provide adequate access to all keypads, intercoms, and elevator controls as provided for in ADA.
6. Consider using APEX series or VPI series keypads with proximity cards or keyfobs and audible signals to provide greater access flexibility for disabled customers.

Height and Reach Requirements

ADA has certain height and reach requirements to allow access for customers in wheelchairs. As these height and reach limitations may cause the weather overhang on keypads to obstruct the vision of taller customers, PTI sells a housing for keypads that does not have a weather overhang. APEX keypads may also be flush-mounted in a wall to prevent this issue. Either of these items may be purchased from PTI.

1. Keypads should be mounted so that the top of the number touchpad is no more than 48" above the finished floor with no obstructions in locations where wheelchair access is available only from the front. See Figure 1.
2. Keypads should be mounted so that the top of the number touchpad is no more than 54" above the finished floor with no obstructions in locations where the wheelchair has sideways access. See Figure 2.
3. Keypads should not be mounted so as to protrude more than 4" from the wall. If mounted in a bollard or pylon, it may protrude up to 12". Multiplexers and other items mounted higher on the wall or ceiling must be 80" or higher above the finished floor. See Figure 3.
4. Falcon Base Units and computers should be placed on desks that meet ADA requirements between 28" – 34" tall with no more than 20" in reach depth for obstructed front access or 24" in reach depth for obstructed side reach access. See Figures 4 & 5. In Figure 4, if $X < 20"$ then $Y = 48"$. When $X = 20"$ to $25"$, then $Y = 44"$. X should always be $\leq 25"$.

All information contained in this form is from the ADA website and the Department of Justice Code of Federal Regulations Excerpt CFR Part 36 ADA Standards for Accessible Design revised July 1, 1994. PTI is not liable for the information contained in this document and we strongly recommend that all installers, owners, and builders work with qualified expert in the local, state, and federal interpretations of ADA and other similar laws. Refer to the ADA Standards for Accessible Design and Federal regulations for more specific information.

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