

521 CMR: ARCHITECTURAL ACCESS BOARD

521 CMR 15.00: **DETENTION FACILITIES**

15.1 **GENERAL**

Detention *facilities* shall comply with 521 CMR, except as specified or modified in 521 CMR 15.00. Detention *facilities* shall include, but not be limited to, police stations, prisons, jails, houses of correction, juvenile detention centers, reformatories and other institutional occupancies where occupants are under some degree of restraint or restriction for security reasons.

15.2 **PUBLIC AREAS**

In such *facilities*, public areas, including but not limited to areas for visitation and consultation, shall be *accessible* and shall be on an *accessible route* from the *entrance* of the *facility*.

15.3 **ENTRANCES**

Entrances used by the general public, including those used by both visitors and inmates or detainees, including those that are secured, shall be *accessible* as required under **521 CMR 25.00: ENTRANCES**.

Exception: *Entrances*, doors and doorways designed to be operated only by security personnel shall be exempt from **521 CMR 26.2, 26.3, 26.4, 26.6, 26.7, 26.8, 26.9, and 26.11**.

15.4 **SECURITY SYSTEMS**

Where security systems are provided at entrances, an *accessible route* shall be provided through fixed security barriers. Where security barriers incorporate equipment such as metal detectors, fluoroscopes, or other similar devices which cannot be made *accessible*, an *accessible route* shall be provided adjacent to such security screening devices to facilitate an equivalent path of travel.

15.5 **VISITING AREAS**

In non-contact visiting areas where inmates or detainees are separated from visitors, the following elements, where provided, shall be *accessible* and located on an *accessible route*.

- 15.5.1 Cubicles and counters. 5% but not less than one, of fixed cubicles shall be *accessible* according to **521 CMR 17.2, Seating**, on both the visitor and detainee or inmate sides. Where counters are provided, a portion at least 36 inches (36" = 914mm) in length shall be provided on both visitor and detainee or inmate side.

15.6 **INMATE AREAS**

Program, dining, work, and recreational *facilities* and all areas open to inmates, detainees, or visitors shall be *accessible* and on an *accessible route*.

15.7 **HOLDING CELLS AND GENERAL HOUSING CELLS OR ROOMS**

Minimum number: At least 3%, but not less than one, of the total number of housing or holding cells or rooms provided in the *facility*, shall be *accessible*.

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15.7.1 Dispersion: *Accessible* cells or rooms shall be dispersed among all categories and types of general housing and holding areas.

15.7.2 Special hold or housing cells: In addition to the requirements of **521 CMR 15.6, Inmate Areas** where special holding or housing cells or rooms are provided, at least one serving each purpose shall comply. An *accessible* special holding or housing cell or room may serve more than one purpose. Cells or rooms subject to this requirement include, but are not limited to, those used for purposes of protective custody, disciplinary detention, detoxification, and medical isolation.

15.7.3 Beds: Beds shall have maneuvering space of at least 36 (36"= 914mm) wide along one side. Where more than one bed is provided in a room or cell, the maneuvering space provided at adjacent beds may overlap.

15.8 **INMATE TOILETS:**

Where provided within the *accessible* cells or rooms, the *bathrooms* shall comply with **521 CMR 30.00: PUBLIC TOILET ROOMS.**

Exception: **521 CMR 30.8 GRAB BARS** does not apply.

15.8.1 Inmate toilet and bathing *facilities*: At least one toilet room and bathing room shall be fully *accessible* and on an *accessible route* from the *accessible* cells or holding rooms.

15.9 **ACCESSIBLE CELLS OR ROOMS FOR PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

In addition to the requirements of **521 CMR 15.6, Inmate Areas** at least 3% but not less than one, of general housing or holding cells or rooms equipped with audible emergency warning systems or permanently installed telephones shall comply with 521 CMR.

Exception: Visible alarms are not required where inmates or detainees are not allowed independent *means of egress*.

15.10 **DRINKING FOUNTAINS:**

Shall comply with the requirements of **521 CMR 36.00: DRINKING FOUNTAINS.**