



The Statewide Accessibility Initiative was established to promote the goal of providing equal access to programs, services, and activities of state government by persons with disabilities. Since 2012, the Initiative has provided strategic planning, technical assistance, and training to the Commonwealth's agencies for meeting regulatory obligations as well as inclusive design goals.

Accessibility Matters is a periodic publication of the Initiative alerting DCAMM staff and design teams to common accessibility issues, and sharing best practices for ensuring that all citizens can participate in state programs, services, and facilities regardless of ability.



Worcester State University Accessible Theater (Miller Dyer Spears)

Initiative Updates

Find the Statewide Accessibility Initiative and accessibility resources on the DCAMM website at mass.gov or go to: <http://tiny.cc/lскеby>

- The Initiative has developed a tool to take the mystery out of determining whether a project triggers accessibility compliance. Project Managers and Study Consultants can now enter basic project and asset data into the Scoping Form for MAAB Compliance to determine what accessibility compliance will be required in a given project. The completed form should be included in all Study documents. The form is located on the DCAMM website at: <http://tiny.cc/h6peby>. It addresses only the scoping requirements of 521CMR: The Rules and Regulations of the MA Architectural Access Board.
- Materials are also under development for establishing project requirements for compliance with Title II of the ADA.
- The Initiative's goal is to have every DCAMM project be accessible as defined by state and federal regulations as well as aiming to achieve inclusive design, where possible. At the moment the Initiative is providing ongoing technical assistance, accessibility audits, and design review to 146 OPDC projects, 23 Energy projects, and 20 Deferred Maintenance projects.
- Sixteen out of the 24 state universities and community colleges have completed ADA Strategic Compliance Assessments and are working on Implementation Planning with the assistance of DCAMM's Accessibility Consultants. These reports identify the highest priority elements at each campus that need to be made accessible so that students, staff and the public have equal access to the college's programs, services and activities. High priority items include:
 - accessible teaching laboratories
 - theaters with accessible seating and access to the stage
 - accessible websites with information about accessible features on campus
 - signage that helps people with wayfinding

See page 2 for an Advisory on EXIT signs



The requirement for an International Symbol of Accessibility on illuminated exit signs at accessible egress doors was added to revisions to the MAAB regulations in 2006, but almost everyone misses this requirement.



When the lobby doors were replaced at the McCormack Building, Tom Hopkins, Executive Director of the MAAB, who passes through these doors every day, pointed out that the EXIT signs were missing this feature.

Here's what DCAMM learned in the process of correcting the situation:

- ☑ Emergency egress signs which are required to be illuminated by 780 CMR must include the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) if the exit discharge door is part of an accessible means of egress.
- ☑ The MAAB issued a decision that the ISA cannot be a luminescent decal applied to an existing EXIT sign. It must be illuminated with the EXIT text.
- ☑ There are currently limited manufacturers for this type of EXIT sign. Since Connecticut has required the ISA on EXIT signs since 2009, the signs may be marketed as "Connecticut-approved". With two states requiring this sign there may be an increase in manufacturers that carry it.

Please include this requirement in construction documents to be in compliance and avoid change orders.

