

A3615(2420)

Memorandum

To: Associate and Regional Directors  
Director, Harpers Ferry Center  
Director, Denver Service Center

From: Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands

Subject: Adoption of the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard to  
Replace the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard

Attached for your review and use is a copy of a memorandum from the Office of the Secretary announcing the adoption of the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) to replace the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS). Accessibility to all newly constructed and altered National Park Service buildings and facilities is required by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. As stated in the attached memorandum, since 1984, the required design and construction standards for compliance with these mandates have been the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard of 1984 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. Over the past several years, the U. S. Access Board has led the effort to combine these two documents resulting in the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAABAAG), which were published in 2004. As the standard setting agency for the Department of the Interior, the General Services Administration (GSA) adopted Architectural Barriers Act Chapters 1-2 and 3-10 of the ADAABAAG as the ABAAS in its November 8, 2005, announcement. The new standards will go into effect on May 8, 2006.

As stated in the official announcement “Facilities subject to the Architectural Barriers Act must meet the ABAAS if the construction or alteration commences, or the lease is entered into, after May 8, 2006. If the construction or alteration commences, or the lease is entered into before May 8, 2006, the facility must meet the UFAS. The construction or alteration of a facility for which plans and specifications were completed or substantially completed on or before May 8, 2006, is permitted to meet the UFAS if the construction or alteration is commenced by May 8, 2008.” A copy of the GSA announcement is also attached.

We ask that you share this information with all the parks in your region, and with all the contractors who will be working with you in the design and construction of buildings and facilities throughout the Service. If you have any questions about this issue, please direct them to David Park, Accessibility Program Manager, at 202/513-7027.

Attachments

cc: Associate Regional Directors, Park Operations

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