

ADA TURNS 25; APPA POSTS NEW STANDARDS BLOG

July 26, 2015 marked the

25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) becoming law in the United States. American colleges and universities incorporated the new guidelines and requirements into the fabric of their own facility design, construction, and renovation projects. Over the years, APPA has provided leadership on ADA issues in educational facilities through books such as Stephen Cotler's *Removing the Barriers*, integration into the Planning, Design, and Construction section of the Institute for Facilities Management, incorporation into the *Facilities Management* manual and now the Body of Knowledge (BOK), and more.




The ADA National Network (www.adata.org) states that the ADA is “a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.” There are five sections of the ADA:

- Title I (Employment) – This has been a key section for educational institutions over the years, as it requires that “reasonable accommodations” be made for qualified applicants and employees without causing the employer “undue hardship.”
- Title II (State and Local Government) – Public entities, services, and programs provided by a state and local government must make sure that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Title III (Public Accommodations) – Facilities such as restaurants, sports stadiums, hotels, private schools, and other entities used by the public need to be accessible and not discriminate against patrons with disabilities.

- Title IV (Telecommunications) – This requires telephone and Internet companies to provide a nationwide system that allows individuals with speech or hearing disabilities to communicate on the telephone or over the Web.
- Title V (Miscellaneous Provisions). The current Act is available in its entirety from www.ada.gov. This is where you can also find archival and historical information and clips, technical assistance and resources, and events related to the 25th anniversary.

In mid-September APPA posted its first *Facilities Standards* blog, published as the “premier source for standards and codes issues as they relate to the facilities sector.” The new blog will serve as a portal through which readers can stay up to date on current developments from ASHRAE, ICC, ISO, NFPA, and other relevant organizations affecting educational facilities.

According to APPA’s Sam Waymire, “With contributions from APPA staff members, APPA’s Standards and Codes Council, and other subject matter experts, readers can rest assured that *Facilities Standards* offers a varied and professional perspective on relevant issues.” Read current and recent blog posts at www.facilitiesstandards.com. 

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- Facilities and School Security
- Testing or Teaming in Construction Management
- 2015 Thought Leaders Report, Part 2

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