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YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR POOL ACCESS UNDER THE 2010 STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

Although there are five types of disabled access to pools mentioned in the new regulations, only two are the required first means of access for aquatic facilities. These two are the sloped entry and the pool lift. For swimming pools with a perimeter of less than 300 linear feet, access must be provided with one of these. For swimming pools with a perimeter greater than 300 linear feet, one of these must be used as well as a second means of access. For these pools, the second means required can be a sloped entry or lift, but could also be a transfer wall, transfer system, or stairs. The standards specify the technical requirements for each type of access and in what instances they can be used.

POOL LIFTS

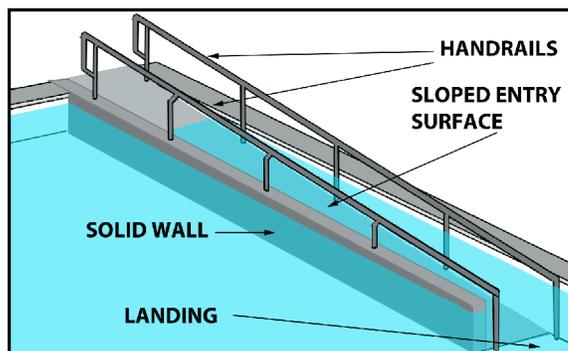
There are a number of pool lifts on the market today, but only a few meet the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design. Pool lifts are a first choice for all aquatic features except wading pools. The law specifies that pool lifts must be self-operable and have controls within easy reach from both the deck and water levels. It also requires a seat with a back and one that provides a firm base to transfer. These two requirements rule out the inexpensive sling lift that is designed for home use and is not a proper choice for a public pool.

Pools vary so much in size, shape, decking and gutter configuration that it is important to deal directly with a reputable company where you can ask questions and get answers before you choose your lift. A pool lift is not a “cookie-cutter” product. When you are transporting a disabled person into and out of a pool, you want a proper fit with the proper lift, not just what springs up if you check the right boxes on a questionnaire. Aquatic Access offers 12 basic lift configurations that meet the federal standards for accessibility and also meet our exacting standards for safety, economy, and reliability without creating a hazard to the environment. These twelve can be endlessly adapted to an infinite number of pools and spas. Call 800.325.5438 and discuss your specific needs with our engineering team.



SLOPED ENTRIES (RAMPS)

For wading pools, sloped entries are the only access system required and must be placed in the deepest area of the wading pool. It can also be the primary choice for all other types of pools except spas. The specific technical requirements for sloped entries are outlined in the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (1009.3) and include degree of slope required, space required for landing area as well as the depth of the water where the lift is placed. The design of side walls and handrails is also specified in great detail for maximum safety. The standards also include a caveat about wheelchairs. Many wheelchairs are not appropriate for entry into the water. When pools rely on a sloped entry, it may be necessary to provide a wheelchair made of non-corrosive material designed for use in the pool on hand as well.



This information is provided as a courtesy to our customers and is not a binding legal interpretation. For more information contact the ADA at 800.514.0301, visit ADA.gov, or contact the United States Access Board at 800.872.2253, or visit www.access-board.gov.