

The Clock Is Ticking!



The Law says that all buildings which the public may access must be accessible to persons with any kind of disability. Such buildings include banks, supermarkets, churches, schools, shops, sporting complexes, Government facilities, medical centres and any other business or building open to the public. Building accessibility is not new, and has long been a part of the Bahamas Building Code!

What about accessible parking?

The Act also states that **all** owners of buildings which the public uses must ensure that there are designated accessible parking spaces.

You must have a permit (or decal) to park in a designated space, or risk having your vehicle towed or clamped, and very soon you will also risk being ticketed and fined!



When is the deadline?

Section 21 of the **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Act, 2014**, requires all buildings open to the public to be accessible. This Law is already in effect and the deadline for **ALL** buildings to fully comply is **31st December 2017**. If not, building owners may face enforcement or legal action.

What does Building Accessibility mean?

It means that ...

persons with disabilities are able to access and use the features and spaces within the building, just like everyone else.

It means that ...

Entryways, exits, sidewalks, ramps, restrooms, lunchrooms and other common areas must be designed so that persons with disabilities can use them.

It means that ...

Buildings with more than one-storey must have elevators or lifts.

It means that ...

Reception, sales and service counters must be designed for access by persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users.



Accessible Parking must be designed to certain specifications. For more information, view the Commission's "*Accessible Parking Guide*" on its website.

What if I have questions or I have challenges getting my building ready?

If you have a question or need advice or more information please contact the Commission's Secretariat at the information below. You may view or download a copy of the **Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities) Act** or the **Building and Parking Accessibility Guides**, by visiting the Commission's website.



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Promoting Responsibility, Ensuring
Access, Encouraging Inclusion, and
Advancing Equal Opportunities for
Persons with Disabilities.*