

## ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SIDEWALK CAFES IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO

**All sidewalk cafés operating in the City of Chicago must comply with the following City of Chicago accessibility requirements. Restaurant owners and operators must also comply with numerous additional City, State and Federal accessibility requirements not discussed here.**

### SIDEWALK CAFÉ BOUNDARIES

Sidewalk café boundaries must not interfere with the accessibility of the public right of way on the sidewalk.

- Sidewalk café boundaries must be positioned so that at least 6 feet separates the outer edge of the barrier from obstacles such as street signs, planters, newspaper dispensers, fire hydrants and bus shelters. Where no obstacles are present, 6 feet must separate other edge of the barrier from the edge of the sidewalk (not including the curb) unless otherwise approved by the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection. Sidewalk Café Rules of Operation.
- Sidewalk café boundaries must be constructed so that they are free of objects that protrude more than 4 inches and are more than 27 and less than 80 inches above the ground unless a corresponding barrier is positioned under the protruding object 27 inches above the ground or lower to provide cane detection. Examples of potential non-compliant protruding objects are hanging lanterns, signs or other objects mounted on or alongside the café fences or barricades. CBC § 18-11-1104.6.
- Sidewalk café boundaries must be constructed so that they provide cane detection for pedestrians who are blind or have visual impairments. A continuous uninterrupted fence or barricade meets this requirement if it has a continuous, firm barrier at 27 inches or less above ground. If the fence or barricade is not continuous or if the barricade consists of posts or other objects connected by hanging ropes, chains or nylon strips, a detectable barrier must run continuously along the pedestrian side of the barricade or fence at a height of 27 inches or less. CBC § 18-11-1104.6.

### ACCESSIBLE TABLES

At least 5% but not less than one of the tables in each sidewalk café seating area must be accessible to people with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs. Accessible tables must be located on an accessible route (see below) and should be dispersed throughout the café seating area. Accessible tables have the following characteristics:

- Table top surfaces that are 28 to 34 inches above the floor. ANSI § 902.3.
- Clear floor space at the table that is at least 30 inches wide and 48 inches deep. Where possible this seating should be located where the sidewalk has a slope that is no greater than 1:50. ANSI §§ 305.2, 902.2.
- Knee clearance underneath the table 27 inches in height to a depth of at least 8 inches and toe clearance at least 9 inches in height to a depth of at least 11 inches. ANSI § 306.
- Under no circumstances should seating in sidewalk dining areas consist only of “high” or “bar stool” height tables and chairs. Where high tables and chairs are used, accessible tables outfitted with chairs of corresponding height must be provided as well.

### ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

Accessible routes must connect accessible sidewalk café tables with at least one restaurant entrance that provides access to restrooms and, where available, public telephones. In addition, if the Sidewalk Café can be

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## SIDEWALK CAFÉ APPLICATION INFORMATION PACKAGE

entered from the sidewalk, an accessible route must be provided from at least one sidewalk entrance to the accessible sidewalk café tables.

In order for a route to be considered accessible:

- It should be 36 inches wide except where passing through an entrance gate, doorway or partition opening. ANSI § 403.5.
- Doorways and entrances on the accessible route should have a clear opening width of at least 32 inches (measured from the door surface to the doorframe when the door is open 90 degrees). 404.2.2.
- Thresholds along the route should be ½ inch or less and beveled with a slope no greater than 1:2. ANSI §§ 303.3, 404.2.4.
- The ground or floor surface should be stable, firm and slip-resistant (no dirt paths, loose gravel or grass). ANSI § 302.1.
- The floor surface should have a slope no greater than 1:20 in the direction of the accessible route and a cross-slope no greater than 1:50. ANSI § 403.3.
- Where it changes level, appropriate slopes (1:20 or less) or curb ramps, ramps, elevators or platform lifts must be used to provide access. ANSI § 303.
- It must be free of objects that protrude more than 4 inches into the circulation path at a height from 27 to 80 inches unless a cane detectable barrier less than 27 inches above the ground is provided. CBC § 18-11-1104.6.1

### SERVICE ANIMALS

Service animals are animals trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities. These include but are not limited to guide dogs used by people who are blind or have visual impairments, hearing dogs used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing, seizure alert dogs used by people with epilepsy and other disabilities that cause seizures and dogs that assist people with mobility impairments. In Chicago, dogs are the only animals permitted to act as service animals in places of public accommodation like restaurants. Service animals are not pets and must be permitted to accompany individuals with disabilities who patronize sidewalk cafés. In addition, Illinois law requires that service animals in training be allowed in these establishments as well.

### POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES FOR MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Restaurants must implement policies, practices and procedures to ensure that people with disabilities have access to accessible seating in sidewalk seating areas. Some basic policies that should be considered:

- Before opening each day and at other times during the course of the operating hours of the sidewalk café, make sure that tables and chairs have not shifted in a way that intrudes on the accessible route.
  - Train all staff as to the location of the accessible seating areas. Make sure that they give individuals with disabilities the choice of waiting for an accessible table or proceeding to another table if that is available.
  - Reserve accessible tables and chairs for use by individuals with disabilities until all other tables have been occupied. This will maximize the opportunity for people with disabilities to use these accessible features without unnecessary delays. If a person with a disability chooses to sit at a table that is not configured to be accessible you must allow that person to do so.
  - If a platform lift is utilized to provide an accessible route to an outdoor dining area:
    - The lift must be left on and unlocked at all times so that it can be operated independently by patrons with disabilities.
    - The lifts should receive scheduled maintenance. It is the responsibility of the restaurant to take steps to ensure that it is operable and that any outages in service are minimized.
    - Staff should test the lift at the beginning of each day and be instructed to contact a repair service immediately if the lift is not working.
    - Staff should be trained on use of the manual back-up system of the lift to ensure that individuals with disabilities will be able to exit in the event of a mechanical breakdown or power outage.
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