

Government Relations Briefing

AODA Update

In This Update ... Built Environment Standard

September 15, 2010

Final Proposed Built Environment Standard (FPBES)

The Final Proposed Built Environment Standard (FPBES) is the final product of the Accessible Built Environment Standard Development Committee. The FPBES now resides with the Minister of Community and Social Services and Cabinet and is being considered as law.

There is no official public review or feedback period for the FPBES.

If the Minister accepts the FPBES as appropriate for regulation, approval could happen early 2011. The Minister also has the authority to only accept parts of the FPBES, or reject the FPBES in its entirety.

Note: although all clauses were approved by more than 70% of the voting members, some sections of the FPBES received significant approval from the members of the Standard Development Committee in matters of definition and precision. An outline of dissent among Committee members' votes, which was sent to the Minister, may impact the precise content of what the Government retains in the Standard and passes into regulation, or what areas the Minister requests additional specifications.

If passed into regulation, the Built Environment Standard would have the following impact:

- Permits issued and work performed for new construction are obligated after 24 months after the Standard becomes law.
- Permits issued or work performed for extensive renovations and changes in the use of a built environment are obligated after 24 months after the Standard becomes law.
- The Standard does not apply to the retrofit of existing buildings.
- The Standard does not include accessibility requirements for specialized occupancies, such as heritage and secure facilities, schools and transportation facilities, business and mercantile facilities, arenas, hospitals and many cultural and recreational facilities. The Standard Development Committee recommends that the Government development specific requirements for these facilities as quickly as possible, and that such facilities attempt to meet the intent of the requirements in the FPBES.
- The FPBES does not address transportation elements, such as transit shelters or bus stops.

The Standard contains the following groups of building elements:

- Common access and circulation
- Interior accessible routes
- Exterior spaces
- Communication elements and facilities
- Plumbing elements and facilities
- Building performance and maintenance
- Special Rooms, spaces and other elements
- Transient residential
- Recreational elements and facilities

- Multi-unit housing

Common Access and Circulation - Catchment:

- Entrances
- Doors and doorways (revolving, sliding)
- Elevating devices
- Ramps
- Stairs
- Ground and floor surfaces
- Overhanging and protruding objects (eg. lighting fixtures)
- Rest areas

Interior Accessible Routes – Catchment:

- Indoor paths
- Corridors
- Hallways
- Passageways
- Foyers

Exterior Spaces – Catchment:

- Accessible exterior route
- Curb ramp
- Pedestrian crossings
- Pedestrian crossing signals
- Street furniture

Communication Elements and Facilities – Catchment:

- Signage
- Information/visual display systems
- Wayfinding
- Public address systems
- Public telephones

Plumbing Elements and Facilities – Catchment:

- Lavatories (washbasins and sinks)
- Washrooms
- Washroom accessories
- Water closet
- Water closet stalls
- Urinals
- Universal toilet rooms (private use)
- Shower areas
- Bath tubs
- Drinking fountains
- Saunas and steam rooms

Building Performance and Maintenance – Catchment:

- Air quality

- Acoustics
- End-user controls and operating mechanisms (thermostats, pay stations)
- Interior lighting
- Exterior pedestrian lighting
- Tactile walking surface indicator

Special rooms, spaces and other elements – Catchment:

- Courtrooms
- Team dressing rooms, change rooms
- Common kitchenettes
- Meeting rooms
- Libraries
- Temporary facilities (emergency shelters, special event facilities, portables)
- Cafeterias and restaurants
- Stages
- Standard parking spaces (inside and outside parking)
- Inside and outside waiting, line-up and queuing areas
- Accessibility seating spaces (religious institutions, theatres, sports venues)
- Balconies and porches
- Terraces and patios
- Assistive listening systems (captioning, descriptive video)
- Passenger boarding areas
- Windows
- Community mailboxes

Transient Residential – Catchment:

- Hostels

Recreational Elements and Facilities – Catchment:

- Paths and trails
- Amusement parks (seating on a ride)
- Play areas (schools, parks, childcare facilities, private resorts, multiple family dwellings)
- Indoor and outdoor pools, spas and splash pads
- Picnic areas
- Exercise equipment placement (access to exercise machines)

Multi-Unit Housing – Catchment:

- Access
- Visitability
- Adaptability

Technical provisions for each of these elements are contained in the long-format FPBES. A complete summary of NO votes on a clause-by-clause basis among Members of the Built Environment Standards Development Committee is available upon request.

An updated briefing will be provided as additional details are made public. If you have any questions about the Final Proposed Built Environment Standard, please contact jmacmaster@marchofdimes.ca