

PHB Tech Bullet #3

Tactile Paver



Pine Hall Brick developed a paver to use in areas where detectable warnings are required.

- ◆ Available in 2 1/2" x 4" x 8"- Pathway Red & Dark Accent colors.
- ◆ Other colors may be available.
- ◆ Paver may be laid in a running bond or herringbone pattern.

ADA Requires Detectable Warnings in 2001

As of July 26, 2001, a detectable warning requirement is in force at hazardous vehicular areas. This federal requirement is a part of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG). This provision had been under suspension since 1996.

The regulations are as follows:

4.29 Detectable Warnings.

4.29.1 **General.** Detectable warnings required by [4.1](#) and [4.7](#) shall comply with 4.29.

4.29.2* **Detectable Warnings on Walking Surfaces.** Detectable warnings shall consist of raised truncated domes with a diameter of nominal 0.9 in (23 mm), a height of nominal 0.2 in (5 mm) and a center-to-center spacing of nominal 2.35 in (60 mm) and shall contrast visually with adjoining surfaces, either light-on-dark, or dark-on-light.

The material used to provide contrast shall be an integral part of the walking surface. Detectable warnings used on interior surfaces shall differ from adjoining walking surfaces in resiliency or sound-on-cane contact.

4.29.5 **Detectable Warnings at Hazardous Vehicular Areas.** If a walk crosses or adjoins a vehicular way, and the walking surfaces are not separated by curbs, railings, or other elements between the pedestrian areas and vehicular areas, the boundary between the areas shall be defined by a continuous detectable warning which is 36 in (915 mm) wide, complying with [4.29.2](#).

4.29.6 **Detectable Warnings at Reflecting Pools.** The edges of reflecting pools shall be protected by railings, walls, curbs, or detectable warnings complying with 4.29.2.

For a complete review of ADAAG, go to www.access-board.gov.

Detectable Warnings May be Retroactive

According to a specialist at the Department of Justice, detectable warnings are required at hazardous vehicular areas for areas currently under construction and areas already constructed. For the latter areas, responsible parties will need to access the feasibility of installing detectable warnings under a “readily achievable” standard. During the suspension period, many municipalities addressed hazardous vehicular areas by using contrasting colors and some type of texture change from the adjoining walk areas.

In those instances, changes to truncated domes may not be necessary if responsible parties can demonstrate equivalent facilitation. Equivalent facilitation is defined in ADAAG as:

2.2* **Equivalent Facilitation.** Departures from particular technical and scoping requirements of this guideline by the use of other designs and technologies are permitted where the alternative designs and technologies used will provide substantially equivalent or greater access to and usability of the facility.

State or Local Governments May Enhance ADAAG Requirements

State or local governments may add requirements to ADAAG guidelines in order to protect and provide for their citizenry. When conflicts between federal and local standards arise, the tougher standard shall be implemented. Designers should take special care in order to identify and understand any special provision added to an ADAAG requirement by a state or local authority.



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