

CASp Inspection Bulletin

Baby Changing Tables in Restrooms

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Prior to the California code amendments which took effect July 1, 2015, baby changing tables could not comply with California restroom codes for height of operable parts while at the same time maintain the proper table and knee space heights required by code. By their nature of design, Baby Changing Tables are “restroom accessories” and “work spaces” with “operable parts”.

CODE CHANGE

California code was amended in 2014 to allow an exception just for Baby Changing Tables. This code amendment became effective July 1, 2015 and provides an “exception” to Section 11B-603.5 which changes the reach height of operable parts for Baby Changing Tables from 40” maximum to 48” maximum.

APPLICATION

This amendment is applicable to new construction, alterations, and additions to commercial buildings, public accommodations, public buildings, and public housing that occur after July 1, 2015. The new code does not constitute a standard for barrier removal projects of existing facilities, unless an alteration or addition is made.

California code considers baby changing tables as a work surface and requires clear floor space, knee space and toe clearance, and specified table height requirements.

Handles and latches of baby changing tables must comply with code requirements for Operable Parts (Section 11B-309), which also includes compliance with accessible Reach Ranges (Section 11B-308). The maximum allowable height is 48 inches above the floor.

LOCATION OF BABY CHANGING TABLES

The new code does not permit Baby Changing Tables to be located within accessible toilet compartments in multi-accommodation toilet facilities, or located where they obstruct the required width of an accessible route. Baby changing tables, however, are still permitted within accessible single-user toilet rooms when sufficient floor space is provided.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Baby changing tables, when deployed, shall not obstruct the required width of an accessible route and shall be cane detectable as required by Section 11B-307.2.

And when surface mounted to the wall, any projection of the closed unit into the accessible route shall not exceed 4 inches when the lowest edge is greater than 27" above the floor as required by Section 11B-307.2.



About the author - Jon Rose is a Certified Access Specialist CASp Inspector, Building Official, ADA Plans Examiner and Expert Witness. Learn more at www.casp-experts.com