Open Restaurants Accessibility Requirements

As NYC re-opens post-COVID19 and restaurants expand outdoor seating to accommodate social distancing, we cannot forget about accessibility. The following information lays out the requirements for maintaining physical accessibility for outdoor dining.

If you witness a restaurant not following these accessibility requirements, point it out to them. It’s important that we have a conversation to create a community that meets the needs of everyone. If they are not receptive, you can report them by calling 311 or texting 311-692.

**Accessible Route**

A 36-inch minimum route needs to be maintained throughout the seating area.

**Changes in Level**

Changes in level of ¼ inch high maximum can be vertical. Changes in level between ¼ inch high minimum and ½ inch high maximum must be beveled with a slope not steeper than 1:2. Any level change greater than ½ inch triggers requirements for a ramp.

**Ramp Requirements**

- **Running Slope** - 1:12 (8.33%)
- **Cross Slope** - 1:48 (2%)
- **Clear width** - 36 inches minimum (measured between handrails where provided)
- **Handrails** - Handrails are required on both sides of ramps with a rise greater than 6 inches
- **Handrail height** - Handrails must be mounted 34 – 38 inches above surface of ramp
- **Handrail extensions** - 12 inch extensions must be provided at top and bottom of ramp
**Edge protection** - Edge protection along ramp runs must be provided curbs, barriers, or extended surfaces.

**Landings** - Level landings are required at the top and bottom of each run (maximum ramp run is 30 feet)

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**Alternative Curb Ramp**

A curb ramp connects the sidewalk to the street level.

Curbs with a height of 6 inches or less do not require handrails but must provide edge protection – either vertical or sloped. Although vertical edge protection would be easiest (see above), inverted side flares are also an option – see below:
**Tables**

At least 5% but not less than one of dining surfaces for seating and standing shall be accessible and distributed throughout the facility.

The tops of dining surfaces shall be 28 inches minimum and 34 inches maximum above the finished floor surface.

Clear floor space that is a minimum of 30 inches wide must provide knee/toe clearance for a forward approach. Toe clearance must extend 17 inches minimum under the table and knee clearance must be 11 inches deep minimum at 9 inches above the finish floor or ground, and 8 inches deep minimum at 27 inches above the finish floor or ground.