



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Circular



Since passage of the ADA in 1990, transit agencies have worked to make America’s public transit system accessible for people with disabilities. Today, nearly all transit buses and rail vehicles are ADA accessible, as well as two-thirds of rail transit stations. As transit agencies continue to improve accessibility, many generate questions or receive public inquiries about complying with the comprehensive ADA regulations. To help transit system leadership and staff, FTA published detailed guidance in a user-friendly, one-stop resource on

ADA requirements and how to implement them in the [ADA Circular](#).

About

- This summary of the Department of Transportation’s ADA regulations and statutes is written in an instructive, user-friendly style
- ADA compliance is the second most common deficiency among FTA grantees during triennial reviews, state management reviews, and specialized civil rights reviews
- Information/Tools help transit agencies avoid deficiencies
- The circular contains no new ADA requirements
- The circular is intended to make the imposing body of regulations in 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, 38, 39 and facility standards more understandable and easy to use
- Includes sample forms, checklists, letters, policies, and checklists for grantees to use, such as:
 - Sample comment form
 - Sample letters for ADA paratransit eligibility
 - Sample paratransit no-show policy
 - Checklists for facility design, buses/vans, and stop announcements/route identification

Do’s & Don’ts

- **Do** refer to the circular to explain a topic or hard-to-understand regulation or policy, but **don’t** cite the circular as a requirement. **Do** always cite the regulation.
- **Do** refer to sample materials as examples, but **don’t** assume or tell agencies they are required to use them.

Format

- Organized by topic in 12 chapters with pictures, figures, and tables
 - Detailed, multi-level headings for easier navigation
- Requirements stated verbatim, followed by discussion
 - Sections include the relevant regulation, additional guidance and good practices

ADA Circular

Ch1: Introduction and Applicability

Ch2: General Requirements

Ch3: Transportation Facilities

Ch4: Vehicle Acquisition/Specs

Ch5: Equivalent Facilitation

Ch6: Fixed Route Service

Ch7: Demand Responsive Service

Ch8: Complementary Paratransit Service

Ch9: ADA Paratransit Eligibility

Ch10: Passenger Vessels

Ch11: Other Modes

Ch12: Oversight, Complaints, Monitoring

