

GLASS DOORS IN BARRIER-FREE BUILDINGS

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

3.8 Barrier-Free Design (See Appendix A.)

3.8.2.1. Areas requiring barrier-Free Path of Travel

- (1) Except as permitted by sentence (3), a barrier free path of travel from the entrances required by sentences 3.8.1.2. (1) and (3) to be barrier free shall be provided,
 - (a) throughout the entrance storey,
 - (b) except as permitted by sentence (2), to and throughout all normally occupied floor areas and rooftop amenity spaces, and
 - (c) throughout all normally occupied floor areas and rooftop amenity spaces that,
 - I. are exempt from the application of Clause (b), and
 - II. are served by a passenger elevator, escalator, inclined moving walk, or other platform equipped passenger elevating device.
- (2) A barrier free path of travel described in Clause (1)(b) is not required to extend,
 - (a) to floor areas or portions of floor areas containing a Group B, Division 2 or 3 occupancy that are not required by Article 3.5.2.1. to be connected by a ramp or served by an elevator,
 - (b) to Group C or Group D occupancies that are in floor areas in a building that,
 - I. is three or fewer storeys in building height, and
 - II. has a building area not exceeding 600 m²,
 - (c) to Group F, Division 2 or 3 occupancies that are not required by sentence 3.8.2.2. (1) to be served by an elevator,
 - (d) to portions of restaurants and licensed beverage establishments where the same amenities and uses are provided on other floor areas that have a barrier free path of travel, or
 - (e) to portions of child care facilities that have all entrance doors at floor level that do not have a barrier free path of travel.

- (3) A barrier free path of travel described in sentences (1) is not required to extend,
 - (a) Into service rooms
 - (b) Into elevator machine rooms
 - (c) Into janitors' rooms
 - (d) Into service spaces
 - (e) Into crawl spaces
 - (f) Into attic or roof spaces
 - (g) Into high hazard industrial occupancies,
 - (h) To portions of a floor area with fixed seats in an assembly occupancy where these portions are not part of the barrier free path of travel to,
 - I. Spaces designated for wheel chair use
 - II. Seats designated for adaptable seating, or
 - III. Spaces for the storage of wheelchairs and mobility assistive devices,
 - (i) to suites of residential occupancy that are in storeys other than the entrance storey and that have all entrance doors at floor levels that are not required to have a barrier free path of travel,
 - (j) except as required by sentence (5), on the inside of a suite of residential occupancy, or
 - (k) to portions of a floor area that are not at the same level as the entry level, provided amenities and uses provided on any raised or sunken level are accessible on the entry level by means of a barrier free path of travel.

3.8.3.3. Doorways and Doors

- (15) A door in a barrier-free path of travel consisting of a sheet of glass shall be marked with a continuous opaque strip that,
 - (a) shall be colour and brightness contrasted to the background of the door,
 - (b) shall be at least 50 mm (2 in) wide,
 - (c) shall be located across the width of the door at a height of 1350 mm (4 ft 5 in) to 1500 mm (4 ft 11 in) above the finished floor, and
 - (d) may incorporate a logo or symbol provided such logo or symbol does not diminish
 - (i) the opacity of the strip,
 - (ii) the width of the strip,

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- (iii) the colour and brightness contrast of the strip to the background of the door, and
- (iv) the continuity of the strip across the width of the door.

OBJECTIVE

This requirement applies to new buildings and additions and alterations of existing buildings. When a door in a barrier-free path of travel consists of a clear sheet of glass or a portion thereof, the glass must be rendered visible to people with disabilities. To achieve this, a continuous opaque strip is applied to the glass for the entire width of the door panel. The drawing to the right will illustrate the prescriptive requirements for the width of the strip and the mounting height.

