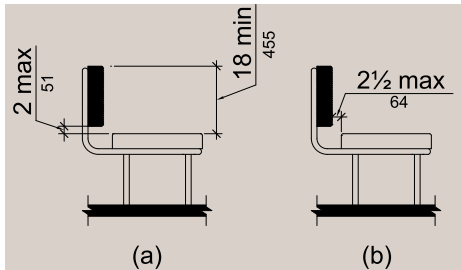


ADA COMPLIANCE FOR BENCHES

There has been confusion and several misleading recommendations made regarding outdoor benches and compliance with ADA guidelines, specifically compliance with Section 903 of the document **ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities**, published in the Federal Register July 23rd, 2004 and amended August 5th, 2005 (<http://www.access-board.gov/ada-aba/final.cfm>). The following diagram from Section 903 is often depicted in planning documents as a universal guideline for ADA bench compliance:



Source: <http://www.access-board.gov/ada-aba/final.cfm#a903>

After careful research and confirmation from the US Access Board, we have found that there are **no** ADA requirements as specified in section 903 for **outdoor** benches, according to the document **ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities**. Benches should comply with Section 903 and the image at left (‘Chapter 9: Built-In Elements - Section 903 Benches’) **ONLY** when they are to be placed in the following facilities, spaces, elements and rooms:

- **Chapter 6: Plumbing Elements and Facilities** - 612 Saunas and Steam Rooms
- **Chapter 8: Special Rooms, Spaces and Elements** - 803 Dressing, Fitting, and Locker Rooms
- **Chapter 8: Special Rooms, Spaces and Elements** - 807 Holding Cells and Housing Cells, 808 Courtrooms*

In other words, unless the bench is intended for a sauna, steam room, dressing room, locker room, holding cell or courtroom, **it does not need to comply with section 903.**

The only **outdoor** bench-related ADA guideline can be found in “**The Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way**” (<http://www.access-board.gov/provac/draft.htm>) under the section “**Text of the Draft Guidelines,**” **Chapter R3: Technical Provisions, R307.6.3.2:**

“Where benches without tables are provided at a single location, at least 50 percent, but no fewer than one, shall have a seat height at the front edge of 43 cm (17 in) minimum and 49 cm (19 in) maximum above the ground or floor space.” - (<http://www.access-board.gov/provac/draft.htm#307>)†

Based on the information above, most, if not all, Victor Stanley benches meet the simple height requirements under section R307.6.3.2



For further clarification, please contact US Access Board

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* Courtroom benches such as the Judge’s bench, gallery benches and jury box benches are not subject to ADA requirements under section 903.

† Recommendations found in the Text of the Draft Guidelines are not currently enforceable standards under the ADA.