

Exhibit Space Accessibility Guidelines

Exhibits are public accommodations under the Americans with disabilities Act (ADA), and each exhibitor, per the WEFTEC License Agreement, is responsible for ensuring that event attendees with disabilities have access to all demonstrations, information, contests, giveaways, or other services offered at your booth.

Areas where you can incorporate accessibility into your exhibit space designs include:

- **Raised Floors**
Exhibits with raised floors must have ramps (minimum 36 inches wide) with a 1:12 slope, ensuring they don't extend into aisles. A 4-inch rise requires a 4-foot ramp. Trailer exhibits need a compliant ramp or hydraulic lift. Per ADA, ramps must have handrails 34–38 inches high on both sides.
- **Aisle Width**
Maintain at least 36 inches of clear space between displays and a 3-foot-square turning area in corners for mobility devices. Avoid obstructing aisles with items like banner stands. If space is limited, ADA requires staff to assist with out-of-reach items.
- **Double-Deck Structures**
Multilevel exhibits must provide equal amenities on both levels unless an elevator is installed. If the upper deck has meeting space or hospitality, offer a comparable area below. For presentations upstairs, consider live streaming them downstairs as a budget-friendly solution.
- **Height of Exhibit Elements**
Place interactive elements (touchscreens, displays, etc.) at ADA-compliant heights of 15–48 inches for accessibility. For bar-height (42-inch) tables, provide at least one 30-inch table with removable seating for wheelchair or scooter access.
- **In-Booth Theaters**
Reserve space with no seating at the ends of the front row for mobility devices and reserve front-row seating for visually impaired attendees. Provide printed scripts and add closed captions to videos, benefiting all attendees in noisy environments.
- **Booth Carpeting**
ADA requires carpets to be securely attached with a firm or minimal cushion and a maximum pile thickness of 0.5 inches. Avoid double-padding plush (28 oz.+) carpets to prevent mobility issues, as excessive padding can trap mobility devices.
- **Visual Impairments**
Ensure aisles are clear and avoid raised platforms to prevent tripping hazards. When assisting visually impaired attendees, introduce yourself, state your title, and describe the exhibit layout. Never touch or address service animals unless invited.