

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

California Title 24 – Restroom Signs

Overview:

Both California and federal regulations provide a comprehensive set of standards covering areas of accessibility for persons with physical and sensory limitations. California's regulations are found in Title 24 of the California Building Standards Code and are designed to comply with the requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) as described in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADAAG) and California state statutes. The division of the State Architect (DSA) develops and maintains the accessibility standards and codes utilized in public and private buildings throughout California. They are detailed in the DSA Access Compliance Manual (DSA A.C.M.).

Resources:

2010 ADAAG Standards: (Free)

http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm

DSA Access Compliance Manual: (Free)

[2019 CBC Advisory Manual.pdf](https://www.compliancesigns.com/media/productbulletins/ADA-Signs-California-Door-Symbols.pdf)

ComplianceSigns.com Product Data Bulletin: (Free)

<https://www.compliancesigns.com/media/productbulletins/ADA-Signs-California-Door-Symbols.pdf>

Design of California Restroom Signs:

- While Federal ADA regulations require only one sign to identify each restroom open to the public, California requires two signs. This two sign requirement evolved because the state adopted accessible restroom sign requirements prior to the Federal Government adopting its own standards in the 1990 ADA. The original California restroom signs consisted of two geometric tactile symbols without any pictograms, text, or braille. The ADA mandated sign included all information provided by the California symbols along with additional requirements. However, the symbols had become so entrenched in California history and culture that the state kept the symbol requirements in addition to adopting the ADA standards. The California DSA A.C.M. references all the requirements stipulated by the Federal ADA as well as the California symbol requirements in the California Building Code (CBC).
- **CALIFORNIA SYMBOL REQUIREMENTS:** Doorways leading to a public restroom must be identified by a geometric symbol centered horizontally on the door at a centered height of 58 inches minimum and 60 inches maximum above the finished floor or ground surface measured from the centerline of the symbol. Where a door is provided the symbol shall be mounted within 1 inch of the vertical centerline of the door. (CBC 11B-703.7.2.6) (**see Graphic Aid 3 below**)
 - Mens restrooms are identified by a ¼" thick equilateral triangle with 12" long edges and the vertex pointing up. The color of the symbol must contrast with that of the door. (CBC 11B-703.7.2.6.1)
 - Womens restrooms are identified by a ¼" thick circle with a 12" diameter. The color of the symbol must contrast with that of the door. (CBC 11B-703.7.2.6.2)

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- Unisex restrooms are identified by the designated 12” circle with the designated 12” triangle superimposed upon it. The vertices of the triangle shall be located $\frac{1}{4}$ inch maximum from the edge of the circle. The color of the triangle must contrast with that of the circle which must contrast with the color of the door. (CBC 11B-703.7.2.6.3) **(see Graphic Aid 1 below)**
- There are requirements for the edge detailing of these tactile symbols. (CBC 11B-703.7.2.6.4)
- Though permitted and often included, there is no requirement for providing gender pictograms or the international symbol of accessibility on the geometric symbols. The inclusion of these additional features is open to interpretation by local code officials who should be consulted for a final determination.

Graphic Aid 1:

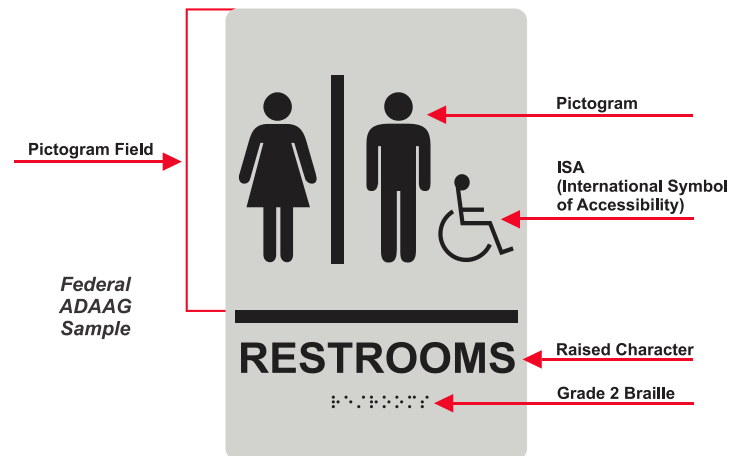


- **FEDERAL ADAAG SIGN REQUIREMENTS:** One concern the authors of the ADA had with the California door symbols was the possibility that a visually impaired person using the symbol's tactile feature to read the symbol while standing in front of a restroom door could be injured by someone suddenly opening the door. This prompted the requirement that a separate sign with tactile text and braille designating restrooms be placed on the wall adjacent to the doorway. This sign consists of the following elements: **(see Graphic Aid 2 below)**
 - Tactile text designating the gender access to the restroom (men, women, restroom {if unisex}, family, etc.) with the exact braille translation of the text directly below. The braille must be contracted (grade 2) with California spacing and domed raised dots. There are also specifications for the size, style, and spacing of the tactile text. (CBC 11B-703.5.1-5.10)
 - Though not required, it is very common for a pictogram depicting the gender access to be included on the sign. If the restroom is accessible, the sign must also include the international symbol of accessibility (ISA). Pictograms and symbols are placed in a pictogram field, 6” high, at the top of the sign followed by the tactile text and braille directly below. The symbol or pictogram is often tactile, though not required to be, and should not be described in braille. (CBC 11B-703.6.1-6.3, 11B-703.7-7.1)

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Graphic Aid 2:

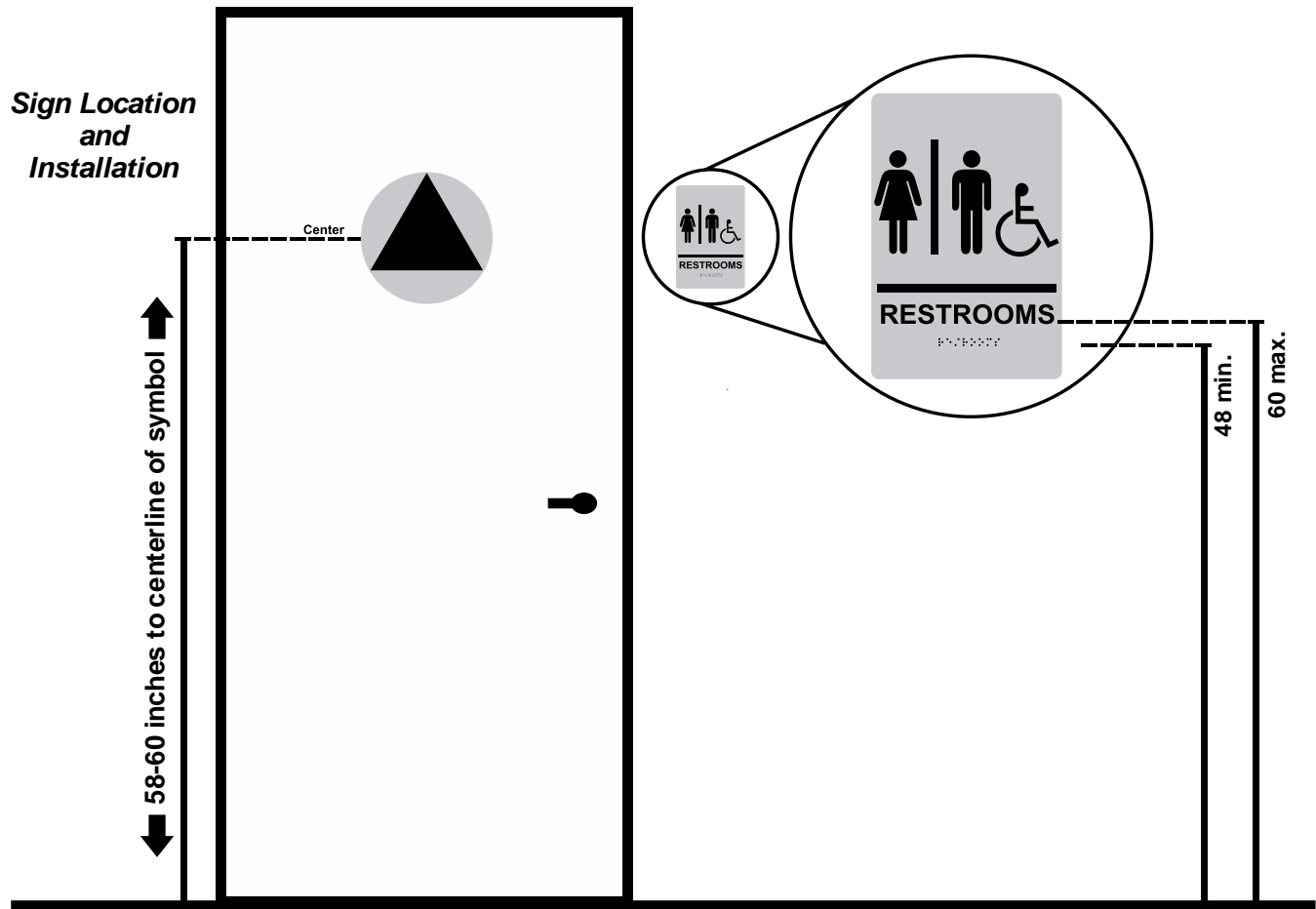


- SIGN LOCATION & INSTALLATION:** California's requirement that two signs must identify each restroom makes it essential that their installation follow the specifications in the standard. The California geometric door symbol must be centered horizontally on the door at a height of 58 inches minimum and 60 inches maximum above the finished floor or ground surface measured from the centerline of the symbol. Where a door is provided the symbol shall be mounted within 1 inch of the vertical centerline of the door. (CBC 11B-703.7.2.6) **(see Graphic Aid 3 below)**
- The Federal ADAAG sign with the tactile text, braille, and possible visual features must be installed with tactile characters located 48 inches minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the baseline of the lowest Braille cells and 60 inches maximum above the finish floor or ground surface, measured to the baseline of the highest line of raised characters. The sign should be located on the wall adjacent to the latch side of the door. Where there is no wall space on the latch side, the sign should be placed on the nearest adjacent wall, preferably on the right. (CBC 11B-703.4.1-4.2) **(see Graphic Aid 3 below)**

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Graphic Aid 3:



For California Restroom Signs please visit our store:
https://www.compliancesigns.com/Restroom_Door-Wall