

## Compliance – Resource Bulletin

# CONNECTICUT – An Act Modernizing the Symbol of Access for Persons With Disabilities

## Public Act No. 16-78

### Overview:

Connecticut adopted new accessibility legislation, Public Act No.16-78, which required the International Symbol of Accessibility to be changed to a new image showing a person seated in a wheelchair while appearing to be in motion. The effective start date was January 1, 2017.

The symbol of access shall be used for all buildings and structures constructed, substantially renovated or expanded on or after January 1, 2017. As of the date of this document, only one other state, New York, has adopted the new Dynamic Accessibility Symbol, though there is a movement in place to expand this symbol into the other states.



Current ADA Approved  
International Symbol of Accessibility

New Symbol of Accessibility  
Connecticut has adopted per  
P.A.16-78 effective January 1, 2017

### Resources:

**CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/ACT/pa/pdf/2016PA-00078-R00HB-05050-PA.pdf>

**ADA STANDARDS:** (Free) [https://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards\\_index.htm](https://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm)

**ACCESSIBLE ICON PROJECT:** (Free) <http://www.accessibleicon.org>

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### Sign Requirements:

- The new symbol shall depict a logo with a dynamic character leaning forward with a sense of movement. Such logo shall be readily identifiable, simply designed with no secondary meaning, and provide for equivalent facilitation and accessibility as the current universal symbol of access.
- Per **Section 1110.1 Signs**, of the 2016 Connecticut Building Code, required accessible elements shall be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility at the following locations:
  1. Accessible passenger loading zones.
  2. Accessible rooms where multiple single-user toilet or bathing rooms are clustered at a single location.
  3. Accessible entrances where not all entrances are accessible.
  4. Accessible check-out aisles where not all aisles are accessible. The sign, where provided shall be above the check-out aisle in the same location as the check-out aisle number or type of check-out identification.
  5. Family or assisted-use toilet and bathing rooms and single occupancy toilet rooms.
  6. Accessible dressing, fitting and locker rooms where not all such rooms are accessible.
  7. Accessible areas of refuge required by Section 1007.9 of the 2016 Connecticut Building Code.
  8. Exterior areas for assisted rescue in accordance with Section 1007.9 of the 2016 Connecticut Building Code.
  9. Accessible portable toilet and bathing units.
  10. Accessible means of egress stairways.
  11. Accessible grade level exits required by Section 1011.1.2 of the 2016 Connecticut Building Code.

### ADA Compliance:

According to the United States Access Board, “The new symbol is still not considered compliant with the ADA Standards;” however, there is cause for Equivalent Facilitation in this situation.

- Per Section 103 of the ADA Standards, Equivalent Facilitation states that nothing “prevents the use of designs, products, or technologies as alternatives to those prescribed, provided they result in substantially equivalent or greater accessibility and usability.”
- Equivalent Facilitation allows for the use of alternative designs so long as they meet the same standards, which in this case would be a symbol showing a person in a wheelchair.

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### (Connecticut ADA Signs Continued)

- The design does not differ greatly from the original International Symbol of Accessibility, so the average person will be able to understand that it has the same meaning as the original symbol, which is something that is required of an icon to meet the criteria for Equivalent Facilitation.
- Per the State of Connecticut P.A. 16-78, the Dynamic Accessibility Symbol provides for Equivalent Facilitation, and is able to be used in place of the International Symbol of Accessibility in Connecticut.
- It is also important to note that this symbol is currently only required in New York and Connecticut. There is a movement to get the new symbol accepted into law in other states, but this is an ongoing process.

### **Conclusion:**

According to the State of Connecticut P.A.16-78, the new Dynamic Accessibility Symbol has Equivalent Facilitation and is able to be used in Connecticut. To ensure you are in compliance, always check with your own state and local governing bodies.

**For Accessibility Signs visit our store:** <https://www.compliancesigns.com/products/ada-standard/acrylic-material>