# **SUMMARY**

Many business owners look at ADA regulations as just a building code, while in reality it is actually a civil rights law. There are substantial differences between building codes and the Department of Justice's ADA requirements. A design plan receiving city approval may not necessarily be in compliance with ADA regulations. This lack of design strategy could ultimately lead to a federal lawsuit.

As your design professional, we will provide solutions to upgrade your site to achieve ADA compliancy.

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# ADA COMPLIANCY AND HOW TO ACHIEVE IT ON YOUR PROPERTY



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# **COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT ADA GUIDELINES:**

As you may know, the Americans with Disabilties Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA has been credited with removing barriers for millions of disabled people, allowing them access to jobs and public buildings. When enacted into law however, Congress did not assign regulators to enforce the law, therefore leaving an explosion of private ADA litigation. Many have called the recent litigation 'drive-by lawsuits', using handheld GPS equipment to determine, for example, accessible slope violations.

The St. Louis area is not immune to the widespread litigation affecting many private property and business owners. In fact, one recent lawsuit against a national convenient store chain was settled for \$1.5 million in compensatory damages in an effort to make it's stores accessible. Local business owners may be unaware that their stores are non-compliant due to new recent amendments published in the federal register on August 11, 2016.

The latest guidelines lay out the scoping and technical requirements for new construction <u>and</u> alterations and are available online at www.ada.gov. Further, standards for state and local government differ from those of the public and commercial facilities. The current guidelines have a direct impact on compliance of existing facilities as well as design of new developments.

While many business owners believe their buildings were grandfathered in prior to the 1990 regulations, this is not the case. While some of the new guidelines pertain to interior building space, many of the regulations will affect your site. As your professional engineer, Clayton Engineering can guide you through the maze of technical documentation as well as determine if your existing site is in compliance with the new amendment.

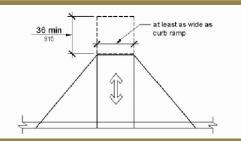
Clayton Engineering has developed a comprehensive team of professionals to provide you with a solution to these issues and help you avoid a potential lawsuit and bring your site in to compliance. We have the capability to work with local architects for interior building space as well as site solutions.

## **EXAMPLES OF ADA COMPLIANCE:**

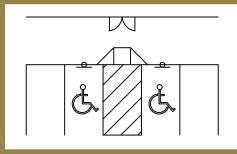




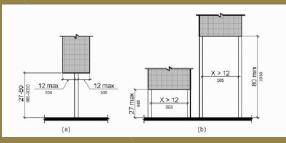
### **EXAMPLES OF AREAS NOT MEETING STANDARDS:**



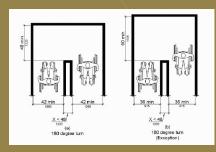
LANDINGS AT TOP OF CURB RAMPS



ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE ON SHORTEST ROUTE TO BUILDING ENTRANCE



POST-MOUNTED PROTRUDING OBJECTS



ACCESSIBLE ROUTE CLEARANCES