



DSA BULLETIN

Date: October 31, 2002

To: **DSA JURISDICTION:** where state funds are utilized for any project or where funds of counties, municipalities or other political subdivisions are utilized for the construction of elementary, secondary or community college projects.

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

From: **Division of the State Architect**
Department of General Services

**SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT ENTITY EVALUATION AND APPROVAL OF
DETECTABLE WARNINGS AND DIRECTIONAL SURFACES**

1. AUTHORITY

This bulletin is issued pursuant to the authority granted by California Government Code Section 4451(f) which authorizes the Department of General Services to grant exceptions from the literal requirements of the building standards published in the California Building Standards Code relating to access for persons with disabilities, or permit the use of other methods or materials.

2. BACKGROUND

Federal and California state regulations currently require detectable warnings and directional surfaces that warn blind or visually impaired persons of hazards, or that provide for directional wayfinding.

The 2001 triennial editions of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, contain new regulations aimed at implementing Section 4460 of the California Government Code. Under these new regulations, detectable warning products and directional surfaces require evaluation and product approval by an independent entity as set forth in CCR, Title 24, Part 1 (California Building Standards Administrative Code), Chapter 5, Articles 2, 3, and 4; Part 2 (California Buildings Standards Code) Sections 1102A.3-C, 1117A.4.7, 1102B, 1127B.5 (8), 1131B.4, 1133B.8.3, 1133B.8.4, 1133B.8.5); Part 12 (California Referenced Standards Code) Chapter 12-11A and 12-11B. The effective date of these regulations is November 1, 2002.

3. SUMMARY

The development of an evaluation and approval program for detectable warning products and directional surfaces is currently underway, however it will not be fully implemented by the November 1, 2002 effective date of the 2001 California Building Standards Codes.

In the interim and until such time that the evaluation and approval program for detectable warning products and directional surfaces is fully developed, operational and product approvals can be issued, DSA will provisionally accept a written five (5) year product warranty provided by the manufacturer of detectable warnings and directional surface products as equivalent to the evaluation and product approval program. Such warranty shall indicate compliance with architectural standards as published in the current edition of the California Building Standards Code, and also include durability criteria which indicates that the shape, color fastness, confirmation, sound-on-cane acoustic quality, resilience, and attachment will not degrade significantly for at least five (5) years after initial installation.

As used in this bulletin, "degrade significantly" means that the product maintains at least 90 percent of its approved design characteristics, as determined by the authority having jurisdiction.

NOTE: Consult with the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) when these products and surfaces may be mandated for use in residential housing.

4. QUESTIONS

For questions regarding this bulletin contact:

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5. AVAILABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Copies of this bulletin are available in the following formats: standard print, large print, audiocassette tape, and computer disk. Copies can be obtained by calling the Division of the State Architect, Office of Universal Design at (916) 322-4700.