

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became effective January 26, 1992. The intent of this legislation is to ensure that people with disabilities have access to employment, public accommodations, government services, transportation, telecommunications, and commercial facilities.

The placement of carpet in the affected public areas of commercial facilities places certain obligations on the specifier, building owner and others. Compliance requirements should be thoroughly understood by the specifier; therefore, the following has been excerpted from the ADA requirements:

4.5 Ground and Floor Surfaces

4.5.1* General. Ground and floor surfaces along accessible routes and in accessible rooms and spaces including floors, walks, ramps, stairs, and curb ramps, shall be stable, firm, slip-resistant, and shall comply with 4.5.

4.5.2 Changes in Level. Changes in level up to ¼ in (6 mm) may be vertical and without edge treatment (see Fig. 7(c)). Changes in level between ¼ in and ½ in (6 mm and 13 mm) shall be beveled with a slope no greater than 1:2 (see Fig. 7(d)). Changes in level greater than ½ in (13 mm) shall be accomplished by means of a ramp that complies with 4.7 or 4.8.

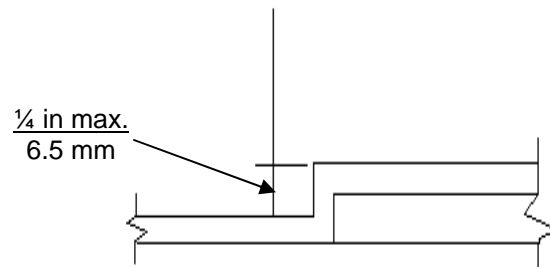
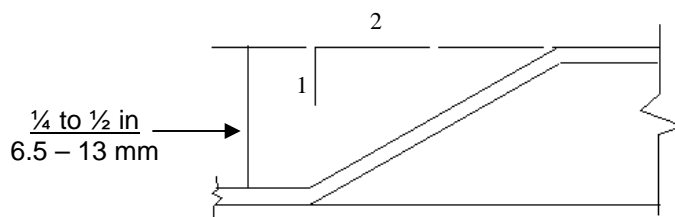


Fig. 7(c)
 Changes in level



Changes in level Fig. 7(d)
 Accessible Route

4.5.3* Carpet. If carpet or carpet tile is used on a ground or floor surface, then it shall be securely attached; have a firm cushion, pad, or backing, or no cushion or pad; and have a level loop, textured loop, level cut pile, or level cut/uncut pile texture. The maximum pile thickness shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ in (13 mm) (see Fig. 8(f)). Exposed edges of carpet shall be fastened to floor surfaces and have trim along the entire length of the exposed edge. Carpet edge trim shall comply with 4.5.2.



Fig. 8(f)
Carpet Pile Thickness