

Introduction



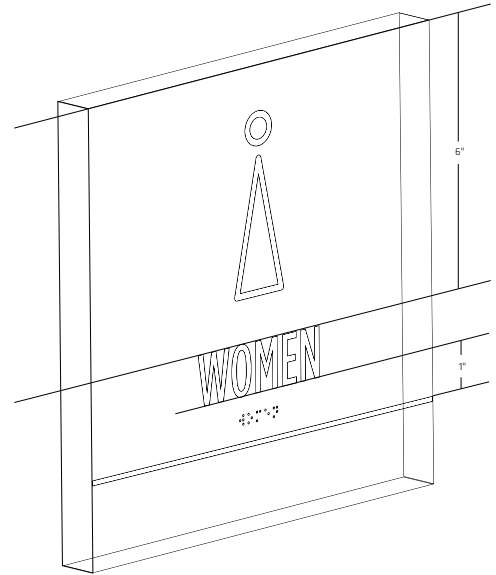
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for signs in public spaces are dictated by the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Signs are required to comply with 703 of the “2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design”. While this document is not the complete list of the ADA standards, by following these guidelines and practices your designs will be ADA compliant.

ADA Sign Summary

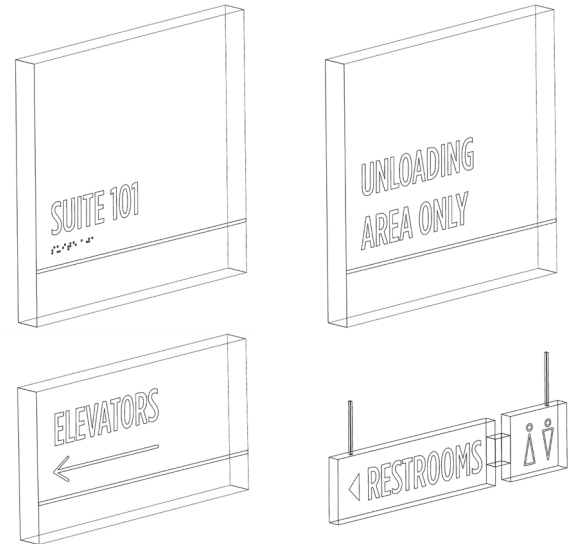


The following is a consolidated list of rules that apply to signs identifying a room or space. Not all ADA signs require each rule, please review the entire guide for a comprehensive overview.

- ADA compliant signs are required for both public access areas and all employee areas.
- Signs that identify a room, space or areas are required to have raised characters and braille.
- Signs should have a non-glare finish with contrasting colors.
- All text should be set in ALL CAPS/ uppercase.
- Fonts should be ADA compliant; sans-serif, simple-serif, non-italic, and not overly bold, condensed, or decorative.
- Text characters are to be a minimum of 5/8" tall but no larger than 2" tall, with a minimum of 1/8" spacing between characters.
- A minimum margin of 3/8" is required around all raised text and elements, including braille.
- A one inch (1") container is required for one line of braille.
- Braille should be on a single line and within 3/8" to 1/2" below last line of text.
- Pictogram/iconography should be within it's own 6" high field. If accessible, include the International Symbol of Access (ISA)/wheelchair symbol.



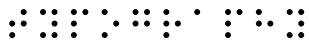
ADA Sign Types



ADA regulations cover four basic sign types. There are specific rules and details relating to each sign type. Included is a quick reference guide that lists the some of the requirements for each sign type. Please read entire guide for the complete rules and details for each sign type.

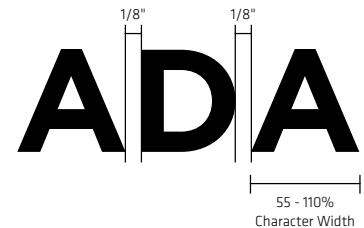
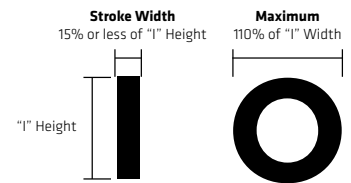
	Identification	Informational	Directional	Overhead Signs
Sign Finish	Non-Glare	Non-Glare	Non-Glare	Non-Glare
Sign Colors	Contrasting Colors	Contrasting Colors	Contrasting Colors	Contrasting Colors
Braille Required	Yes	No	No	No
Raised Lettering	Yes	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required
Lettering Font	Sans Serif	Simple or Sans Serif	Simple or Sans Serif	Simple or Sans Serif
Lettering Height	5/8" to 2"	Minimum 5/8"	Minimum 5/8"	Minimum 2"
Letter Case	All Uppercase	Upper and/or Lower	Upper and/or Lower	Upper and/or Lower
Iconography	Yes - see page 8	No Specific Requirement	No Specific Requirement	No Specific Requirement
Line Spacing	35 - 70% of Letter Height	35 - 70% of Letter Height	35 - 70% of Letter Height	35 - 70% of Letter Height
Lettering Spacing	1/8" to 4x of Stroke	10 to 35% of Stroke	10 to 35% of Stroke	10 to 35% of Stroke
Letter Stroke	15% max of Stroke	10 to 30% of Stroke	10 to 30% of Stroke	10 to 30% of Stroke
Mounting	See page 10	No Specific Requirement	No Specific Requirement	Min. Clearance 80"

Typography



Typography and text are required to use acceptable tactile fonts and character proportions. In order to be compliant, text characters must be spaced and sized properly.

- Fonts should be ADA compliant; sans-serif, simple-serif, non-italic, and not overly bold, condensed, or decorative.
- Tactile characters must be sans-serif.
- Italic, script, or overly decorative fonts are not compliant.
- All text should be set in ALL CAPS/ uppercase.
- All text should be raised a minimum of 1/32".
- Text height for tactile information is to be a minimum of 5/8" tall but no larger than 2" tall.
- The distance between characters of tactile copy must be a minimum of 1/8" and a maximum of 4 times the character stroke width. These distances are measured between the closest points of adjacent characters.
- The stroke width of the upper case "I" has to be 15% of the letter height or less. The character width of the uppercase "O" must be between 55% and 110% of the height of the corresponding uppercase "I".



ADA Compliant

SUITE 300

Not Compliant

SUITE 300
SUITE 300
SUITE 300

Examples of ADA Compliant fonts

Gotham
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
1234567890

Futura
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
1234567890

Helvetica Neue
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
1234567890

Arial
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
1234567890

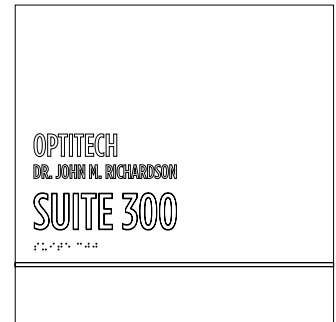
Braille



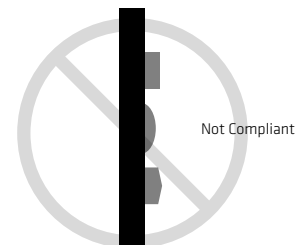
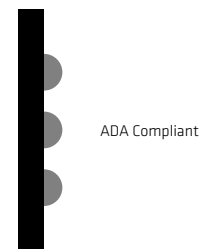
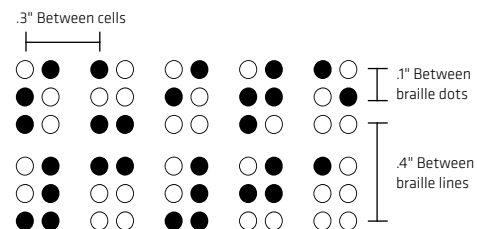
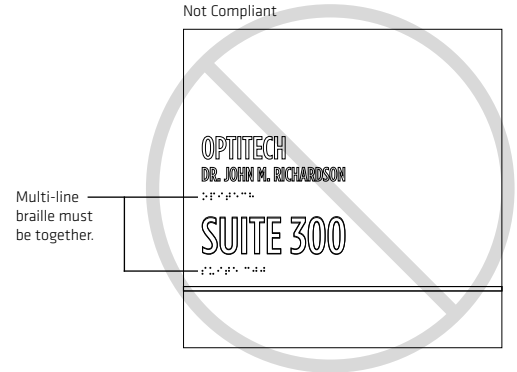
All signs that identify a room, a space, or an area (including employee areas) must include braille positioned below raised text.

- Signs using braille are required to use Grade II braille.
- Braille should be dome shaped and should not have sharp or abrasive edges.
- Braille should be on a single line and within 3/8" to 1/2" below last line of text.
- Braille should be in lowercase, except for proper names, acronyms and letters as part of a number.

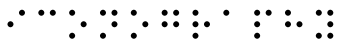
ADA Compliant



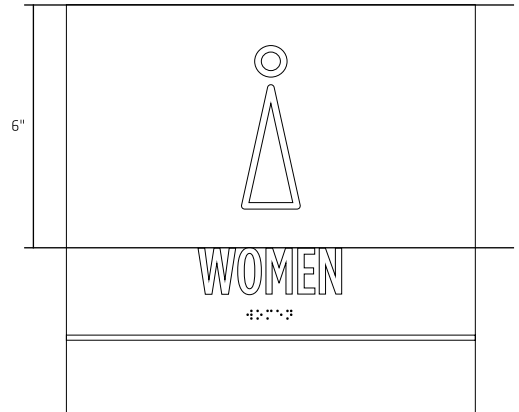
Not Compliant



Iconography



Pictograms/ iconography are required on some but not all ADA signs. Pictograms that identify a space must be within a 6" high field. No other element is allowed within this space. There are no specific rules on the height of the pictogram itself, but corresponding text with braille should be directly below the pictogram.



Required pictograms/icons



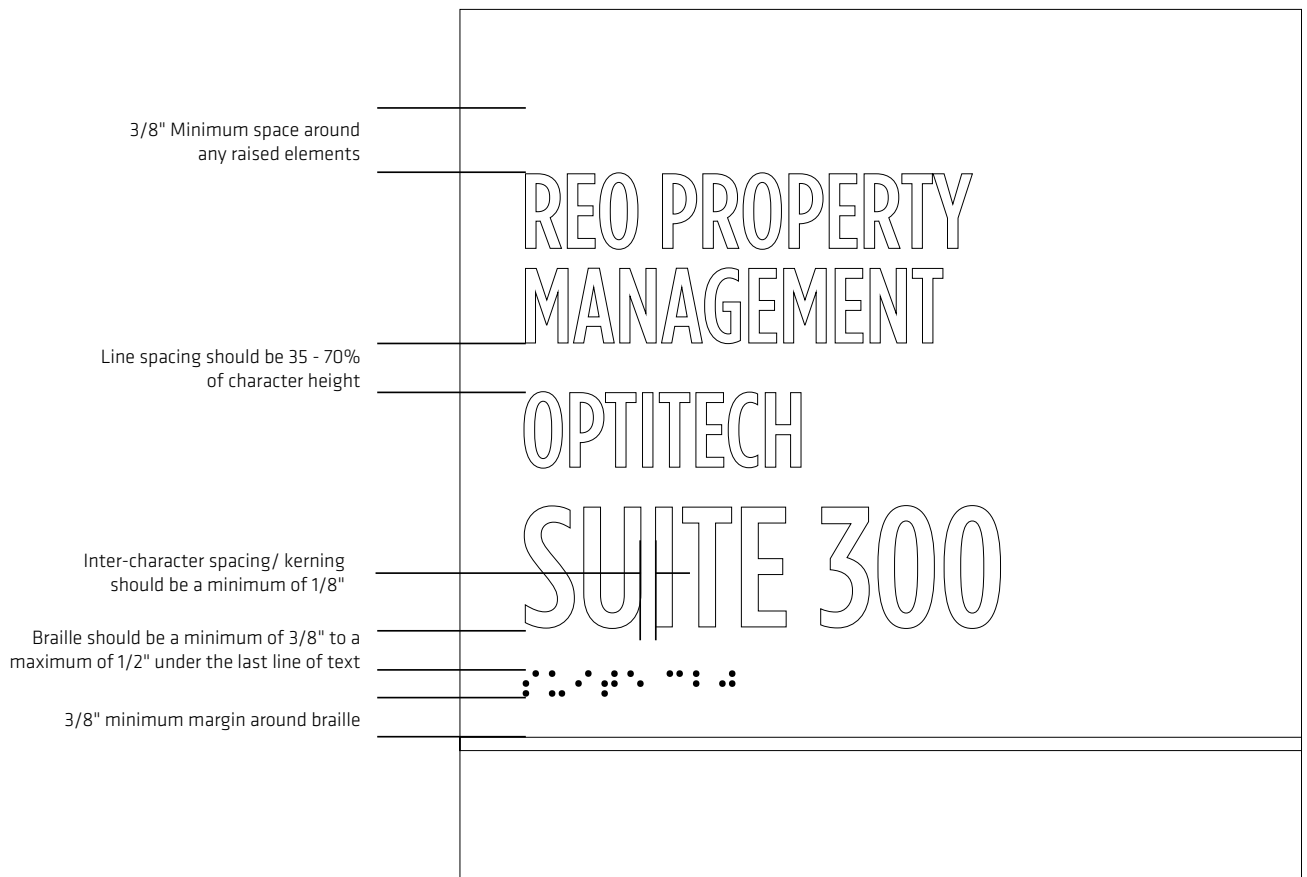
Room ID pictograms/icons are not required, but recommended.



Spacing



Proper spacing and margins are important for anyone needing to read by touch. Character size, leading (line space) and margins have specific requirements for ADA compliance.



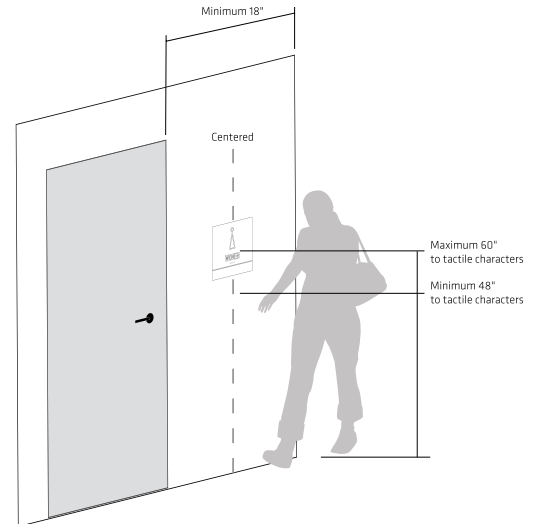
Mounting



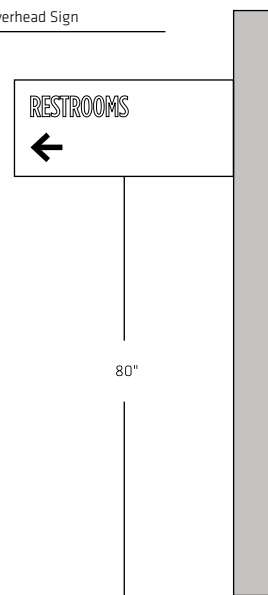
Wall and overhead signage has specific mounting requirements for ADA compliance. Please review state and local codes as they may vary.

- Room signs to be mounted on the latch side of the door.
- Signs with tactile characters must be centered between an 18" minimum area.
- Signs containing tactile characters should be located within a clear floor space a minimum of 18" by 18". This space has to be beyond the arc of any door swing between its closed position and its 45° open position.
- Maximum height of tactile characters is 60" above floor to baseline of the characters.
- Minimum height of tactile characters is 48" above floor to baseline of the characters.
- In the case of double doors, with both sides in use, the sign should be mounted on the right side.
- When there is not enough wall space near the door to mount the sign, use the nearest adjacent wall.
- Ceiling or wall projection/overhead signs must have a minimum clearance of 80" from bottom of the sign to the floor.

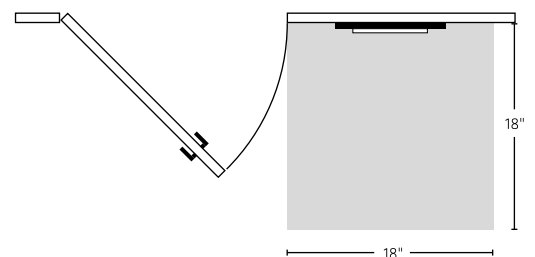
Wall Mounted Sign



Projecting / Overhead Sign



Floor Clear Space



References



- **ADA Government Regulations Website**
https://www.ada.gov/2010ADAstandards_index.htm
- **2010 ADA Standards Document**
<https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAstandards.htm>