

Rocky Mountain ADA Compliance Discussion Summary

I spoke with Chris Murphy from Rocky Mountain ADA and we collaboratively addressed key considerations and devised a plan, outlined as follows:

1. **ADA Access to Saunas and Cold Plunges:**

a. Chris concurs that utilizing private rooms suffices for ADA compliance. We intend to install a handrail by the cold plunge and introduce a removable bench to facilitate access in and out of the plunge. This is subject to the client having assistance, being self-sufficient, or having a staff member comfortable with assisting.

b. Although our purchased saunas have doors measuring 28" wide, Section 404 recommends a 32" wide door for ADA compliance. Given the impracticality of returning or reselling these saunas and the lack of an ADA option during purchase, we recognize this as an unremovable barrier (Section 36.304). To address this, Chris suggests procuring a 24" wheelchair online (\$125) for on-site assistance with access to our private infrared saunas.

c. We jointly believe these modifications align with ADA regulations.

2. **Rinse-Off Station:**

a. The argument arises that a rinsing shower, not provided for bathing purposes in a bathing room, might not be subject to ADA standards. Showers are mandated to be accessible according to the 2010 ADA Standards in a bathing facility. However, these standards do not specify that a shower not located in a bathing facility be required to adhere to the requirements found in Chapter 6. The outdoor rinsing shower requirements found in the ABA Standards, the physical access Standard the Federal Government is held to, is an alternative best-practice to provide access for people with disabilities where the scoping from the 2010 ADA Standards is not specific.

b. Section 1011.7 states that no handrail is required, and the use of a removable bench is deemed acceptable.

Given space constraints, occupancy limitations, and financial considerations, Chris emphasizes the need to comply fully with applicable accessibility standards "to the maximum extent feasible." We assert that, to the best of our ability, we have achieved ADA compliance and devised alternative solutions where barrier removal was unattainable. As the business progresses, we aspire to invest in or construct a larger sauna that aligns better with ADA recommendations in the future.

**Reviewed for
Code Compliance**

03/26/2024

Owner is following Rocky Mountain ADA consultants purview on ADA compliance for the Rinse Off Station and Cold Plunge Tub. RCRBC originally was seeking compliance for the rinse off station like we would treat a shower, and compliance with the cold plunge private tubs like we would for bathtubs. However Rocky Mountain ADA provided this feedback, and the owner made the decision to follow this pathway to compliance.