



## Brief History of Restroom Accessibility and Bobrick's Planning Guide for Accessible Restrooms



**1961**

The first nationally recognized accessible design standard – the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities – was issued. However, the standard for accessible restroom design at that time was very basic.



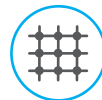
**1990**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law. A civil rights law, the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in places of public accommodation, employment, transportation, government services and telecommunications.



**1991**

The Access Board published the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) which explains how to make buildings comply with the ADA. The U.S. Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing the accessibility portion of the regulations.



**1993**

As a service to architects and contractors, Bobrick published the first edition of the Planning Guide for Accessible Restrooms. Working with nationally recognized architect and accessible design advocate Ronald L. Mace, FAIA, (1941-1998) Barrier Free Environments, Inc., Raleigh, NC. Mr. Mace is credited with coining the term 'Universal Design' and was central to developing and popularizing the concept. The Bobrick planning guide focused exclusively on accessible restroom design. The text of the ADA was translated into a visual presentation that included layouts and elevations with legend text indicating accessible locations of Bobrick restroom accessories and toilet compartments.



**2004**

The Access Board issued updated guidelines for new and altered facilities covered by the ADA and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). To make compliance easier, the Access Board began to harmonize the guidelines with the International Building Code and its referenced standard, the ICC/ANSI A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities.\*



In response to the 2004 Access Board's updated guidelines, Bobrick updated the Planning Guide for Accessible Restrooms and issued the second edition in consultation with Rex J. Pace, a notable architectural designer who also worked on the first edition of the Planning Guide while at Barrier Free Environments.

2004



The Department of Justice revised regulations for the ADA and issued new regulations and accessibility standards called the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

2010



Changes to the ADA along with ICC, A117-2009 required another update to Bobrick's Planning Guide for Accessible Restrooms. The third edition was published in 2012 and produced in consultation with Richard Duncan, Executive Director of the RL Mace Universal Design Institute, Asheville, NC.

2012



The 2017 version of the A117 had significant changes which became part of the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). As states adopt the 2021 International Building Code,\*\* the A117-2017 accessibility standards will be included in individual states' building codes. In response, Bobrick updated the Planning Guide for Accessible Restrooms to reflect these changes. The 4th edition of the guide also includes expanded illustrations, a table of contents for easy reference and highlights the 13 key changes that affect restroom design.

2021

\*Source: icccafe.org

\*\*The International Building Code (IBC) is updated on a three-year cycle. The International Code Council uses an open-hearing, consensus process to develop its building safety and fire prevention codes, including the IBC. When changes affect restroom accessibility, Bobrick responds accordingly by issuing a new edition of its Planning Guide for Accessible Restrooms.