

ASC Video - Long Form Script

People with disabilities expect the same comfort, and ability to move around the workplace as their colleagues. Corridor clearances, door openings, sound regulation, and environmental controls can become accessibility barriers for people with disabilities. It is thus important to take an accessibility lens to all workplaces in order to be fully inclusive.

Accessibility Standards Canada supports the Government of Canada's efforts to create a world without barriers. As part of their accessibility mandate, Accessibility Standards Canada constructed their new office to be the most accessible workplace possible - effectively setting the standard for a fully accessible office space that accommodates the needs of their employees including people with disabilities.

As you enter the space, you'll notice the corridor clearances, turning radius, and access is more spacious than in a traditional office space to accommodate, for instance, people using various mobility devices including wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches. To comply with the standards, primary corridors, cubicles, meeting rooms, washrooms, and kitchens should be at least 2100mm wide, with secondary corridors no less than 1200mm.

In order to be accessible and inclusive, doorways also need to be more spacious. They have an 860mm clearance to allow room for people who use various types of mobility devices.

Automatic doors with push columns and sliding doors with the ability to easily open and slowly close eliminate the need to hold doors open and prevent doors from closing too quickly.

Mechanically operated sit-and-stand desks with built-in memory settings are particularly helpful for persons with disabilities.

Highly resilient LVT Flooring with a gripping texture, offers firmness, smoothness, and stability, enabling people using wheeled mobility devices to roll smoothly without obstructions posed by floor coverings like carpets and uneven flooring.

Tactile walking surface indicators at the front and back exterior entrances are an added safety feature that warns people who are blind or partially sighted that they are approaching a , approaching a street, or moving into an area where one might interact with vehicular traffic.

LED lighting systems at every workstation allow each employee to control their own environment, with every cubicle, office space, and meeting room having its own lighting controls that dim or raise the light level and adjust for warmth or coolness.

For people with light, heat, or cold sensitivity, remote-controlled automatic blinds allow users to adjust the heat and light levels by altering the amount of sun exposure.

Multi-ventilation zones within the workspace along with individualized thermostats for enclosed offices and meeting rooms give employees the ability to adjust the temperature. Controls are reachable and offer people who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices to use the controls independently.

Accessibility Standards Canada incorporates a variety of elements in their design, offering everybody the ability to navigate their workplace with

the use of elements such as pink and white noise systems, masking sound systems, baffles, soundproof walls, visible warning systems, and infrared loop systems.

Infrared loop systems connect to hearing devices and pick up voices from embedded microphones in the ceiling, allowing hearing aid users the ability to hear voices clearly, without background interference.

Visible and audible warning systems emit sound for people who are partially sighted and flashing lights for people who are deaf, deafened or hard of hearing. .

Gender-neutral universal washrooms add a level of convenience and inclusivity in the workplace.

Gender-neutral universal washroom elements such as sinks, toilets, automatic faucets, grab bars and counters at appropriate heights, allow people using various mobility devices to independently access all parts of the washroom.

The provision of an adult change table adds an element of accessibility not typically found in office spaces. This provides an increased level of functionality for employees with disabilities who may require increased levels of support.

Internet access throughout all areas of the office allows employees to use laptop computers and move around as needed with equally fast wifi speed regardless of location.

To enhance accessibility and wayfinding to people who are blind or partially sighted, Accessibility Standards Canada is incorporating features such as larger font sizes, pictograms, audible signals, voice command

printers, tactile and braille signage, and colour-coded flooring to identify rooms.

The Gabby Voice Command system allows all employees to perform printing and scanning tasks using voice commands.

Differentiating colors on floors, walls, and windows provides visual identification and contrast.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Accessibility Standards Canada workplace mandate. We encourage all Government of Canada department leads and office designers to consider implementing these features to make their offices as accessible as possible with the needs of the disabled in mind. For more information, contact visit the Accessibility Standards Canada website at <https://accessible.canada.ca/>