

§ 105–8.151

(b) Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible;

(c) Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance with § 105–8.150 and, if the time period of the transition plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period; and

(d) Indicate the official responsible for implementation of the plan.

§ 105–8.151 Program accessibility: New construction and alterations.

Each building or part of a building that is constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of the agency shall be designed, constructed, or altered so as to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps. The definitions, requirements, and standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (42 U.S.C. 4151–4157), as established in 41 CFR 101–19.600 to 101–19.607, apply to buildings covered by this section.

§ 105.8.152 Program accessibility: Assignment of space.

(a) When GSA assigns or reassigns space to an agency, it shall consult with the agency to ensure that the assignment or reassignment will not result in one or more of the agency’s programs or activities being inaccessible to individuals with handicaps.

(b) Prior to the assignment or reassignment of space to an agency, GSA shall inform the agency of the accessibility, and/or the absence of accessibility features, of the space in which GSA intends to locate the agency. If the agency informs GSA that the use of the space will result in one or more of the agency’s programs being inaccessible, GSA shall take one or more of the following actions to make the programs accessible:

(1) Arrange for alterations, improvements, and repairs to buildings and facilities;

(2) Locate and provide alternative space that will not result in one or more of the agency’s programs being inaccessible; or

(3) Take any other actions that result in making this agency’s programs accessible.

41 CFR Ch. 105 (7–1–02 Edition)

The responsibility for payment to make the physical changes in the space shall be assigned on a case-by-case basis as agreed to by GSA and the user agency, dependent on individual circumstances.

(c) GSA may not require the agency to accept space that results in one or more of the agency’s programs being inaccessible.

§ 105–8.153 Program accessibility: Interagency cooperation.

§ 105–8.153–1 General.

GSA, upon request from an occupant agency engaged in the development of a transition plan under section 504, shall participate with the occupant agency in the development and implementation of the transition plan and shall provide information and guidance to the occupant agency. Upon request, GSA shall conduct space inspections to assist the agency in determining whether a current assignment of space results in one or more of the occupant agency’s programs or activities being inaccessible. GSA shall provide the occupant agency with a written summary of significant findings and recommendations, together with data concerning programmed repairs and alterations planned by GSA and alterations that can be effected by the agency.

§ 105–8.153–2 Requests from occupant agencies.

(a) Upon receipt of an occupant agency’s request for new space, additional space, relocation to accessible space, alterations, or other actions under GSA’s control that are needed to ensure program accessibility in the requesting agency’s program(s) as required by the agency’s section 504 transition plan, GSA shall assist or advise the requesting agency in providing or arranging for the requested action within the timeframes specified in the requesting agency’s transition plan.

(b) If the requested action cannot be completed within the time frame specified in an agency’s transition plan, GSA shall so advise the requesting agency within 30 days of the request by submitting, after consultation with the agency, a revised schedule specifying the date by which the action shall be

General Services Administration

§ 105-8.160

completed. If the delay in completing the action results in or continues the inaccessibility of the requesting agency's program, GSA and the agency shall, after consultation, take interim measures to make the agency's program accessible.

(c) If GSA determines that it is unable to take the requested action, GSA shall—

(1) Within 30 days, set forth in writing to the requesting agency the reasons for denying the agency's request, and

(2) Within 90 days, propose to the requesting agency other methods for making the agency's program accessible.

(d) Receipt of a copy of an occupant agency's transition plan under section 504 shall constitute notice to GSA of the requested actions in the transition plan and of the times frames which the actions are required to be completed.

§ 105-8.154 Program accessibility: Exceptions.

Sections 105-8.150, 105-8.152, and 105-8.153 do not require GSA to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where GSA personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the Administrator or his or her designee after considering all resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that individuals with handicaps receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

§§ 105-8.155—105-8.159 [Reserved]

§ 105-8.160 Communications.

(a) The agency shall take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with applicants, participants, personnel of other Federal entities, and members of the public.

(1) The agency shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids where necessary to afford an individual with handicaps an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a program or activity conducted by the agency.

(i) In determining what type of auxiliary aid is necessary, the agency shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individual with handicaps.

(ii) The agency need not provide individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices of a personal nature.

(2) Where the agency communicates with applicants and beneficiaries by telephone, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TDD) or equally effective telecommunication systems shall be used to communicate with persons with impaired hearing.

(b) The agency shall ensure that interested persons, including persons with impaired vision or hearing, can obtain information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities.

(c) The agency shall provide signage at a primary entrance to each of its inaccessible facilities, directing users to a location at which they can obtain information about accessible facilities. The international symbol for accessibility shall be used at each primary entrance of an accessible facility.

(d) This section does not require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with § 105.8.160 would result in such alteration or burdens.