Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
Access Barrier Removal
Classification Based on Severity

Access Barrier Severity:

A. Safety Hazard
B. Severe or Complete Barrier
C. Partial Barrier
D. Minor Code Deviation
E. Non-Mandated Access Improvements

A. Potential Safety Hazard
These barriers can potentially create an unsafe condition for persons with a disability. Examples are:

1) "Protruding Objects" - Objects that protrude into a path of travel present a hazard to people with a vision-related disability unless they can be detected by the sweep of a cane.
2) Absence of tactile warnings (truncated domes) at the edges of Curb Ramps or where pedestrian paths border a vehicular way. These tactile warnings provide a means to route safely for pedestrians who rely on white mobility canes, guide dogs, etc.
3) Door openings which have insufficient height or width clearance; door hardware which needs more than 5 pounds effort to operate
4) Where there is no cane detectable element under overhead obstructions;
5) Where there is no hardware w/ panic device at hallway or exit door;
6) Lack of visual alarms in restrooms.

B. Severe or Complete Barrier
These barriers make access for persons with a disability either extremely difficult or impossible. Examples are:

1) Where parking spaces are provided for self-parking, but the required number of accessible parking spaces is not provided.
2) Where curb ramp flare slope exceeds 10%
3) Where there is only one drinking fountain area which is not a "hi-lo" drinking for persons who have difficulty bending or stooping or wheelchair users.

C. Partial Barrier
These barriers create difficulty in access of persons with a disability. Examples are:
1) Where drinking fountain does not provide at least 27" high accessible knee clearance between the bottom of the apron and the floor.
2) Lavatory does not provide accessible knee clearance (i.e. at least 27" clearance from the floor to the underside of the lavatory.

D. Minor Code Deviation
These barriers are minor deviations from code requirements.

E. Non-Mandated Access Improvements
These barriers are generally under draft Federal criteria (as of 2010) to be adopted into law in upcoming code cycles.