



**Issue:**

Regarding accessible seating at fixed booth seating in restaurants and bars:

- 1) Are booths required to be accessible if accessible fixed tables are provided?
- 2) At accessible spaces at booths can the space be at the open end of the booth, generally in the aisle, oriented at 90 degrees from the fixed bench seating?
- 3) How many spaces are required when there are several different types of fixed tables and booths such as 2-person, 4-person and 8-person? Five percent with a minimum of one at each type of booth?

**Interpretation:**

IBC Section 1109.11 states “Where seating or standing space at fixed or built-in tables, counters or work surfaces is provided in accessible spaces, at least 5 percent of the seating and standing spaces, but not less than one, shall be accessible”.

IBC 1109.11.1 states “Accessible fixed or built-in seating at tables counters or work surfaces shall be distributed throughout the space or facility containing such elements....”

1. It is clear in the code that 5% of fixed seating shall be accessible. The code does not require the distribution to be among every different type. The accessible seating may be at either the booths or at fixed tables, if both are provided and the accessible spaces are distributed throughout. When looking at distribution it is important to see that it is distributed in areas used for different uses such as at the bar area as well as dining area.
2. When the accessible seating is at booths, placing the required seating always at the end of the table is not acceptable. The booths should include space(s) on the side to accommodate the intent of the requirement. If more than one space is required they could be mixed including ends of tables and sides of booths, as long as the location is out of the path of travel used by the public or service personnel.
3. Only 5% of seating at fixed tables are required to be accessible. If only one accessible space is required it should be at the majority type of fixed tables or booths. If there is more than one accessible space required it must be distributed among the various types of tables and booths.

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