



Subject:

When there is a counter where food or drink is consumed what are the requirements for accessible seating? Does a section of the counter have to be accessible?

Conclusion:

Per Section 1108.2.9.1 of the 2018 IBC, 5% of the dining surfaces for consumption of food and drink shall be accessible. The accessible seating can be located at the bar counter or at fixed or non-fixed tables in the vicinity of the bar counter.

- If the bar counter is the only seating in the bar vicinity then a portion of the bar counter shall be accessible.
- If the accessible seating is located at **fixed** tables then the architectural plans must show the accessible seating locations.
- If the accessible seating is located at **non-fixed** tables then the architectural plans must show the accessible seating locations or include a note that 5% of the seating at the non-fixed tables in the vicinity of the counter shall be accessible.

Notes:

- The requirements for counters per 2018 IBC Section 1109.11 are not intended for bar counters where food or drinks are consumed. Section 1108.2.9.1 is more specific to counters for consumption of food and drink.
- The requirements for point of sale and service counters per 2018 IBC section 1109.12.3 and 2010 ADA Standards Section 227 are not intended for bar counters where food or drinks are consumed.