



Alert

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DOT Proposes New Accessibility Requirements for Airports Comments Due on November 28, 2011

Recently, the Department of Transportation (DOT) proposed to amend its rules implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires accessibility in airport terminal facilities that receive Federal assistance. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) applies to airport facilities located in the U.S. with 10,000 or more annual enplanements that receive Federal funding.

The NPRM includes new provisions related to service animal relief areas, captioning of televisions and audio-visual displays. The NPRM also proposes to reorganize provision 49 CFR 27.72 concerning mechanical lifts for enplaning and deplaning passengers with mobility impairments and to amend this provision so airports are required not only to work with U.S. carriers but also foreign air carriers to ensure lifts are available where level entry loading bridges are not available.

The NPRM can be accessed and comments submitted or viewed through the Federal government's rulemaking portal at www.regulations.gov, docket number OST-2011-0182-0001. Instructions for submitting comments are included in the proposal.

The deadline for comments is November 28, 2011.

For more information or for a link to view the NPRM in the Federal Register, please visit www.UniversalDesign.com/NPRM.