

# 2021 Virginia Construction Code

## CHAPTER 11 ACCESSIBILITY

### SECTION 1109 SPECIAL OCCUPANCIES

#### 1109.1 General.

In addition to the other requirements of this chapter, the requirements of Sections 1109.2 through 1109.4 shall apply to specific occupancies.

#### 1109.2 Assembly area seating.

A building, room or space used for assembly purposes with *fixed seating* shall comply with Sections 1109.2.1 through 1109.2.5. Lawn seating shall comply with Section 1109.2.6. Assistive listening systems shall comply with Section 1109.2.7. Performance areas viewed from assembly seating areas shall comply with Section 1109.2.8. Dining areas shall comply with Section 1109.2.9.

##### 1109.2.1 Services.

If a service or facility is provided in an area that is not *accessible*, the same service or facility shall be provided on an accessible level and shall be *accessible*.

##### 1109.2.2 Wheelchair spaces.

In rooms and spaces used for assembly purposes with *fixed seating*, accessible *wheelchair spaces* shall be provided in accordance with Sections 1109.2.2.1 through 1109.2.2.3.

##### 1109.2.2.1 General seating.

*Wheelchair spaces* shall be provided in accordance with Table 1109.2.2.1.

**TABLE 1109.2.2.1  
ACCESSIBLE WHEELCHAIR SPACES**

CAPACITY OF SEATING IN ASSEMBLY AREAS	MINIMUM REQUIRED NUMBER OF WHEELCHAIR SPACES
4 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 100	4
101 to 300	5
301 to 500	6
501 to 5,000	6, plus 1 for each 150, or fraction thereof, between 501 through 5,000
5,001 and over	36 plus 1 for each 200, or fraction thereof, over 5,000

##### 1109.2.2.2 Luxury boxes, club boxes and suites.

In each luxury box, club box and suite within arenas, stadiums and *grandstands*, *wheelchair spaces* shall be provided in accordance with Table 1109.2.2.1.

##### 1109.2.2.3 Other boxes.

In boxes other than those required to comply with Section 1109.2.2.2, the total number of *wheelchair spaces* provided shall be determined in accordance with Table 1109.2.2.1. *Wheelchair spaces* shall be located in not less than 20 percent of all boxes provided.

##### 1109.2.3 Companion seats.

At least one companion seat shall be provided for each *wheelchair space* required by Sections 1109.2.2.1 through 1109.2.2.3.

##### 1109.2.4 Dispersion of wheelchair spaces in multilevel assembly seating areas.

In *multilevel assembly seating* areas, *wheelchair spaces* shall be provided on the main floor level and on one of each two additional floor or *mezzanine* levels. *Wheelchair spaces* shall be provided in each luxury box, club box and suite within assembly facilities.

#### Exceptions:

1. In *multilevel assembly seating* areas utilized for worship services where the second floor or *mezzanine* level contains 25 percent or less of the total seating capacity, *wheelchair spaces* shall be permitted to all be located on the main level.
2. In *multilevel assembly seating* areas where the second floor or *mezzanine* level provides 25 percent or less of the total seating capacity and 300 or fewer seats, all *wheelchair spaces* shall be permitted to be located on the

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main level.

3. *Wheelchair spaces* in team or player seating serving *areas of sport activity* are not required to be dispersed.

#### 1109.2.5 Designated aisle seats.

At least 5 percent, but not less than one, of the total number of aisle seats provided shall be designated aisle seats and shall be the aisle seats located closest to *accessible routes*.

**Exception:** Designated aisle seats are not required in team or player seating serving *areas of sport activity*.

#### 1109.2.6 Lawn seating.

Lawn seating areas and exterior overflow seating areas, where fixed seats are not provided, shall connect to an *accessible route*.

#### 1109.2.7 Assistive listening systems.

Each building, room or space used for assembly purposes where audible communications are integral to the use of the space shall have an assistive listening system.

**Exception:** Other than in courtrooms, an assistive listening system is not required where there is no audio amplification system.

##### 1109.2.7.1 Receivers.

The number and type of receivers shall be provided for assistive listening systems in accordance with [Table 1109.2.7.1](#).

##### Exceptions:

1. Where a building contains more than one room or space used for assembly purposes, the total number of required receivers shall be permitted to be calculated based on the total number of seats in the building, provided that all receivers are usable with all systems and if the rooms or spaces used for assembly purposes required to provide assistive listening are under one management.
2. Where all seats in a building, room or space used for assembly purposes are served by an induction loop assistive listening system, the minimum number of receivers required by [Table 1109.2.7.1](#) to be hearing-aid compatible shall not be required.

**TABLE 1109.2.7.1**  
**RECEIVERS FOR ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS**

CAPACITY OF SEATING IN ASSEMBLY AREAS	MINIMUM REQUIRED NUMBER OF RECEIVERS	MINIMUM NUMBER OF RECEIVERS TO BE HEARING-AID COMPATIBLE
50 or less	2	2
51 to 200	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats*	2
201 to 500	2, plus 1 per 25 seats over 50 seats*	per 4 receivers*
501 to 1,000	20, plus 1 per 33 seats over 500 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*
1,001 to 2,000	35, plus 1 per 50 seats over 1,000 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*
Over 2,000	55, plus 1 per 100 seats over 2,000 seats*	1 per 4 receivers*

**Note:** \* = or fraction thereof

##### 1109.2.7.2 Ticket windows.

Where ticket windows are provided in stadiums and arenas, at least one window at each location shall have an assistive listening system.

##### 1109.2.7.3 Public address systems.

Where stadiums, arenas and *grandstands* have 15,000 fixed seats or more and provide audible public announcements, they shall also provide prerecorded or real-time captions of those audible public announcements.

#### 1109.2.8 Performance areas.

An *accessible route* shall directly connect the performance area to the assembly seating area where a *circulation path* directly connects a performance area to an assembly seating area. An *accessible route* shall be provided from performance areas to ancillary areas or facilities used by performers.

#### 1109.2.9 Dining and drinking areas.

In dining and drinking areas, all interior and exterior floor areas shall be *accessible* and be on an accessible route.

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## Exceptions:

1. An accessible route between *accessible* levels and stories above or below is not required where permitted by [Section 1104.4](#), Exception 1.
2. An accessible route to dining and drinking areas in a *mezzanine* is not required, provided that the *mezzanine* contains less than 25 percent of the total combined area for dining and drinking and the same services, and decor are provided in the *accessible* area.
3. In sports facilities, tiered dining areas providing seating required to be *accessible* shall be required to have *accessible routes* serving at least 25 percent of the dining area, provided that *accessible routes* serve *accessible* seating and where each tier is provided with the same services.
4. Employee-only work areas shall comply with [Sections 1103.2.2](#) and [1104.3.1](#).

### 1109.2.9.1 Dining surfaces.

Where dining surfaces for the consumption of food or drink are provided, at least 5 percent, but not less than one, of the dining surfaces for the seating and standing spaces shall be *accessible* and be distributed throughout the facility and located on a level accessed by an *accessible route*.

### 1109.3 Self-service storage facilities.

*Self-service storage facilities* shall provide accessible individual self-storage spaces in accordance with [Table 1109.3](#).

**TABLE 1109.3**  
**ACCESSIBLE SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES**

TOTAL SPACES IN FACILITY	MINIMUM NUMBER OF REQUIRED ACCESSIBLE SPACES
1 to 200	5%, but not less than 1
Over 200	10, plus 2% of total number of units over 200

### 1109.3.1 Dispersion.

Accessible individual self-service storage spaces shall be dispersed throughout the various classes of spaces provided. Where more classes of spaces are provided than the number of required accessible spaces, the number of *accessible* spaces shall not be required to exceed that required by [Table 1109.3](#). *Accessible* spaces are permitted to be dispersed in a single building of a multiple-building facility.

### 1109.4 Judicial facilities.

Judicial facilities shall comply with [Sections 1109.4.1](#) and [1109.4.2](#).

#### 1109.4.1 Courtrooms.

Each courtroom shall be accessible and comply with [Sections 1109.4.1.1](#) through [1109.4.1.5](#).

##### 1109.4.1.1 Jury box.

A *wheelchair space* shall be provided within the jury box.

**Exception:** Adjacent companion seating is not required.

##### 1109.4.1.2 Gallery seating.

*Wheelchair spaces* shall be provided in accordance with [Table 1109.2.2.1](#). Designated aisle seats shall be provided in accordance with [Section 1109.2.5](#).

##### 1109.4.1.3 Assistive listening systems.

An assistive listening system must be provided. Receivers shall be provided for the assistive listening system in accordance with [Section 1109.2.7.1](#).

##### 1109.4.1.4 Employee work stations.

The judge's bench, clerk's station, bailiff's station, deputy clerk's station and court reporter's station shall be located on an *accessible route*. The vertical access to elevated employee work stations within a courtroom is not required at the time of initial construction, provided a *ramp*, lift or elevator can be installed without requiring reconfiguration or extension of the courtroom or extension of the electrical system.

##### 1109.4.1.5 Other work stations.

The litigant's and counsel stations, including the lectern, shall be *accessible*.

### 1109.4.2 Holding cells.

Central holding *cells* and court-floor holding *cells* shall comply with [Sections 1109.4.2.1](#) and [1109.4.2.2](#).

#### 1109.4.2.1 Central holding cells.

Where separate central holding *cells* are provided for adult males, juvenile males, adult females or juvenile females, one of each type shall be *accessible*. Where central holding *cells* are provided and are not separated by age or sex, at least

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one accessible cell shall be provided.

**1109.4.2.2 Court-floor holding cells.**

Where separate court-floor holding *cells* are provided for adult males, juvenile males, adult females or juvenile females, each courtroom shall be served by one accessible cell of each type. Where court-floor holding *cells* are provided and are not separated by age or sex, courtrooms shall be served by at least one accessible cell. *Accessible cells* shall be permitted to serve more than one courtroom.