

ACCESS ALERT

News from KMA

Today's **Access Alert** has two newsworthy topics:

- 1. Accessible Exterior Egress Route:
*Clarification of 521 CMR 20.11***
- 2. Accessible Design Awards**

Read on!

Accessible Exterior Egress Route: Clarification of 521 CMR 20.11

The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board has clarified the intent of its new, accessible egress requirement in 521 CMR 20.11 relative to exit discharges from an interior landing between two levels. In many existing buildings, there is a level of exit discharge that is one or more steps above or below occupiable floors, commonly called "split level." The Board is not requiring an accessible, exterior egress route from these exits. An accessible, exterior path from an exit discharge is required only when the exit discharge is at the same level as an occupiable floor or if it serves an occupiable floor at the same level as well as other levels. The accessible exterior path must provide a "continuous path of travel from an exit to a public way by means of a walkway or a ramp." Under certain conditions this accessible exterior route may be limited to 100', or replaced with an exterior area of rescue assistance. See [521 CMR 20.11.2](http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/dps/aab_regs/521020.pdf) (http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/dps/aab_regs/521020.pdf).

Accessible Design Awards

Sponsored by the Boston Society of Architects and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board

Open to anyone in the world — designer, building official, citizen, community group, building owner, public agency, etc. for a Massachusetts project. This program recognizes excellence in the design of buildings or facilities that are accessible for persons of all abilities. [Call for entries](http://www.architects.org/emplibrary/accessCfE2007.pdf) (<http://www.architects.org/emplibrary/accessCfE2007.pdf>).

Submission deadline: March 26, 2007