

Access Alert

Service Animal Relief Areas

July 21, 2009

The amended ACAA regulations became effective on May 13, 2009 and require carriers "in cooperation with the airport operator and in consultation with local service animal training organizations" to provide animal relief areas for service animals. To ensure that your areas are fully compliant and functional, KMA recommends that the following be confirmed during design and construction:

1. 10' x 10' minimum area
2. Maneuvering space at entrance gate.
All entrance gates must provide a minimum of 32" clear width. Gate hardware should be located between 36" and 48" AFF and operable with a closed fist. Maneuvering space is required on both sides of the gate. (See ADAAG Fig. 25) Note that the required maneuvering space must have a surface that is stable, firm and slip resistant.
3. There must be a minimum 60" in diameter, unobstructed turning space within the enclosure.
4. The bag dispenser should be mounted no higher than 48" AFF and located within an accessible reach range relative to the accessible route. Make sure that the post for the bag dispenser is not located within the maneuvering space required for the gate.
5. Although the regulations do not specify the number of animal relief areas required, each airline and airport should consider the number based on several factors: Size of airport; Number of terminals; Available space for animal relief areas; Typical time available between flights; Time needed to go out and return through security.
6. Signage on both sides of security and at baggage claim indicating the location of animal relief areas.

Recommendations regarding surfaces for animal relief areas can be found at on our [website](#).

[Kessler McGuinness & Associates, LLC](#), is a nationally known firm that specializes in accessibility compliance planning through access audits, access master plans, architectural plan review, accessible design review protocols, training and resource development. We also serve as expert witnesses for plaintiffs and defendants. Clients include airports, commercial property owners, educational institutions, government agencies, architects, and attorneys.

Please call, 617-641-2802, if you have any questions or would like to discuss one of your projects.