

ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

- NO. AB-007** :
- DATE** : July 18, 1997 (Updated 01/01/2008 for code references)
- SUBJECT** : Disabled Access
- TITLE** : **High-Top Van Parking Equivalent Facilitation**
- PURPOSE** : To establish acceptable equivalent facilitation standards for existing parking structures that are required to be made accessible in connection with alteration projects but that do not meet current code requirements for 8'2" vertical clearances for high-top vans.
- REFERENCES** : 2007 San Francisco Building Code
- Section 202 - Unreasonable Hardship Defined
- Section 1130B, Exception 1
- DISCUSSION** : It is the policy of the Department that, when existing covered parking facilities do not meet current code requirements for vertical clearance, the building may meet one of the following alternate requirements. If these alternates are not applicable, relief may be granted by the Access Appeals Commission.

a) If the required number of non-van accessible spaces is provided within the structure, and if all those spaces comply with all other requirements, equivalent facilitation would allow the required number of van accessible spaces to be accommodated at another location in the building that meets the 8'2" vertical clearance requirements. Examples of other building locations include covered loading dock areas and covered passenger loading zones. An accessible path-of-travel must be provided from such alternate location to an accessible building entrance. Detailed signage shall be provided directing the driver to such alternate parking location.

OR

b) If the required number of accessible spaces is provided within the structure, and if all of those spaces comply with all other requirements, equivalent facilitation would allow the required number of van accessible spaces to be accommodated by written arrangement with a parking structure that meets the vertical clearance requirements and is located within 300 feet in any direction from the building. Detailed signage shall be provided directing the driver to the designated parking facility. An accessible path-of-travel shall be provided between the two facilities.

Submittal of a Documentation of Unreasonable Hardship form must be accompanied by a copy of a written agreement between the agents for the building and the parking structure and by information which documents that strict compliance with code requirements cannot be met without creating an unreasonable hardship as defined under San Francisco Building Code, Section 202. Where the cost of alternations over a three-year period exceeds the valuation threshold, this equivalency may be reconsidered as part of an Unreasonable Hardship Request accompanying subsequent remodeling permits.

Approved by the Building Inspection Commission on July 16, 1997

Originally signed by:
Frank Y. Chiu, Director
July 18, 1997