

World Disability Union

Official Standard for the Accreditation of Accessible Beaches

1. Purpose of the Standard

This standard aims to ensure the **right to safe, equitable, and independent access** for persons with disabilities—particularly persons with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorder—to all beach facilities, in accordance with the principles of:

- Universal Design
- Accessibility
- Dignity and Independence
- Safety and Social Inclusion

2. Scope of Application

This standard applies to:

- Public beaches
- Tourist beaches
- Coastal resorts
- Hotel-affiliated beaches
- Investment and municipal beaches

3. Evaluation and Accreditation System

The World Union for Persons with Disabilities adopts a **five-point rating system** for each criterion:

Score	Description
1	Not available
2	Available but non-compliant
3	Partially available
4	Available and largely compliant
5	Fully available and fully compliant

Accreditation Requirements:

- Overall score must not be less than **80%**
- No core criterion may score less than **3/5**

4. Detailed Accreditation Requirements

4.1 Accessible Parking for Persons with Disabilities

- Minimum of 5% designated accessible parking spaces
- Located near the main entrance
- Minimum width of 3.6 meters including access aisle
- Level, firm, and slip-resistant surface
- International disability signage

Score: /5

4.2 Curb Ramps and Accessible Entrances

- Maximum slope of 1:12
- Minimum clear width of 120 cm
- Handrails on both sides
- Slip-resistant surfaces
- Direct connection to all facilities

Score: /5

4.3 Internal Beach Pathways

- Solid or wooden pathways over sand
- Minimum width of 150 cm
- Adequate turning radius for wheelchairs
- Continuous pathway extending to the sea
- Free from obstacles and well maintained

Score: /5

4.4 Accessible Restrooms

- Step-free entrance
- Door width of at least 90 cm
- Adequate internal turning space
- Grab bars and support rails
- Emergency call system
- Slip-resistant flooring

Score: /5

4.5 Accessible Shower Facilities

- Step-free access
- Fixed or movable shower seating
- Grab bars
- Easy-to-use water controls
- Privacy and safety considerations

Score: /5

4.6 Sea Access Facilities

- Dedicated pathway reaching the water
- Floating or beach wheelchairs
- Ramps or safe entry systems
- Assistance provided by trained staff

Score: /5

4.7 Cafeterias and Food Service Areas

- Step-free accessible entrances
- Adequate circulation space
- Tables suitable for wheelchair users
- Lowered service counters
- Clear or alternative menu formats
- Slip-resistant flooring

Score: /5

4.8 Rest and Seating Areas

- Designated wheelchair-accessible seating
- Shaded areas for sun protection
- Firm and stable ground surfaces
- Proximity to essential services

Score: /5

4.9 Safety and Lifeguard Services

- Specialized training on assisting persons with disabilities
- Appropriate rescue equipment
- Clear emergency response plans

- Effective communication with beach users

Score: /5

4.10 Autism-Friendly Area

- Quiet zone away from noise
- Reduced sensory stimuli
- Calm and neutral color schemes
- Simplified visual signage
- Allowance for family or caregiver support

Score: /5

4.11 Signage and Wayfinding

- International accessibility symbols
- High-contrast colors
- Large, clear fonts
- Directional signage to all facilities
- Tactile or Braille signage where possible

Score: /5

4.12 Supporting Services

- Staff trained in disability awareness
- Dedicated disability services desk
- Availability of wheelchairs
- Regular maintenance of accessible facilities
- Complaint and feedback mechanism

Score: /5

5. Accreditation Results

Percentage	Accreditation Level
Below 60%	Not Accredited
60–79%	Partially Accessible
80–89%	Accessible Beach
90–100%	Fully Accredited Accessible Beach

6. Accreditation Certificate

Beaches that meet the requirements of this standard shall be granted:

- An **official accreditation certificate**
- An **accreditation plaque displayed at the beach entrance**
- The right to use the designation and logo: *Accessible Beach* – **World Disability Union**