

WORLD DISABILITY UNION

Official Standard for the Accreditation of Accessible Beaches

Formal Professional Edition — Full Text and Evaluation Score Sheets

1. Purpose of the Standard

This standard establishes a unified regulatory framework designed to guarantee that persons with disabilities — in particular persons with physical disabilities, sensory disabilities, and Autism Spectrum Disorder — enjoy the right to safe, equitable, and independent access to all beach facilities and services. The framework is founded upon the following core principles:

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

2. Scope of Application

The provisions of this standard apply to all categories of beaches, including but not limited to:

- Public beaches
- Tourist beaches
- Coastal resorts
- Hotel-affiliated beaches
- Investment and municipally managed beaches

3. Evaluation and Accreditation System

The World Disability Union adopts a five-point rating scale, applied independently to each evaluation criterion, as set out below:

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

Minimum Accreditation Eligibility Criteria:

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- The overall score must not be less than 80%.
- No core criterion may receive a score below 3/5.

4. Detailed Accreditation Requirements

4.1 Accessible Parking for Persons with Disabilities

- A minimum of 5% of all parking spaces shall be designated for the exclusive use of persons with disabilities.
- Designated spaces shall be situated in close proximity to the main entrance.
- Each space shall have a minimum width of 3.6 metres, inclusive of the access aisle.
- Surfaces shall be level, firm, and slip-resistant.
- Standard international disability signage shall be clearly displayed.

Score: _____ / 5

4.2 Curb Ramps and Accessible Entrances

- The maximum permissible gradient shall be 1:12.
- The minimum clear width shall be 120 cm.
- Handrails shall be installed on both sides.
- All surfaces shall be slip-resistant.
- A direct, unobstructed connection shall be provided to all beach facilities.

Score: _____ / 5

4.3 Internal Beach Pathways

- Pathways traversing sandy areas shall be constructed from solid or wooden materials.
- The minimum pathway width shall be 150 cm.
- Adequate turning radius shall be provided to permit wheelchair manoeuvrability.
- Pathways shall extend continuously to the shoreline/sea access point.
- Pathways shall remain free of obstructions and shall be maintained in good condition.

Score: _____ / 5

4.4 Accessible Restrooms

- Entrances shall be step-free.
- Doorways shall have a minimum clear width of 90 cm.
- Adequate internal turning space shall be provided.
- Grab bars and support rails shall be installed.
- An emergency call system shall be fitted.
- Floor surfaces shall be slip-resistant.

Score: _____ / 5

4.5 Accessible Shower Facilities

- Access shall be step-free.
- Fixed or movable shower seating shall be provided.
- Grab bars shall be installed.
- Water controls shall be easy to operate.
- Adequate provisions for privacy and safety shall be incorporated.

Score: _____ / 5

4.6 Sea Access Facilities

- A dedicated pathway shall extend to the water's edge.
- Beach-appropriate or floating wheelchairs shall be made available.
- Ramps or certified safe entry systems shall be provided.
- Trained personnel shall be available to render assistance.

Score: _____ / 5

4.7 Cafeterias and Food Service Areas

- Entrances shall be step-free and accessible.
- Adequate circulation space shall be maintained.
- Tables shall be designed to accommodate wheelchair users.
- Service counters shall be set at a lowered, accessible height.
- Menus shall be provided in accessible formats (clear print or alternative formats).
- Flooring shall be slip-resistant.

Score: _____ / 5

4.8 Rest and Seating Areas

- Designated seating zones shall be accessible to wheelchair users.
- Shaded areas shall be provided for protection from direct sunlight.
- Ground surfaces shall be firm, stable, and level.
- Seating areas shall be located within reasonable proximity to essential services.

Score: _____ / 5

4.9 Safety and Lifeguard Services

- Personnel shall receive specialized training in assisting persons with disabilities.
- Appropriate rescue equipment shall be accessible and available.
- A documented emergency response plan shall be in place.
- Effective communication protocols with all beach users shall be established.

Score: _____ / 5

4.10 Autism-Friendly Area

- A quiet zone shall be established, separated from high-noise areas.
- The environment shall be designed with reduced sensory stimulation.

- Calm, neutral colour palettes shall be used in interior and exterior finishes.
- Simplified visual wayfinding and signage shall be provided.
- Policy shall permit accompaniment and support by family members or caregivers.

Score: ____ / 5

4.11 Signage and Wayfinding

- International accessibility symbols shall be used.
- High-contrast colour schemes shall be applied.
- Large, legible typefaces shall be employed.
- Directional signage shall be provided to all facilities and amenities.
- Tactile or Braille signage shall be installed where practicable.

Score: ____ / 5

4.12 Supporting Services

- All staff shall receive disability awareness training.
- A dedicated disability information and assistance desk shall be established.
- Wheelchairs shall be available for visitor use.
- A scheduled maintenance programme for all accessible infrastructure shall be maintained.
- A formal mechanism for receiving and addressing feedback shall be established.

Score: ____ / 5

5. Accreditation Levels

Based on the overall percentage score achieved, beaches shall be classified as follows:

Score Range	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 satisfy the requirements stipulated in this standard shall be granted:

- An official accreditation certificate.
- An accreditation plaque for prominent display at the main beach entrance.
- Authorisation to use the official designation and logo: "Accessible Beach – World Disability Union".

Evaluation Score Sheets

For official on-site assessment — assign a score of 1–5 for each sub-requirement.

4.1 Accessible Parking for Persons with Disabilities

Requirement	Score (1–5)
≥5% designated accessible parking spaces	_____
Located near the main entrance	_____
Width ≥ 3.6 metres (including access aisle)	_____
Level, firm, slip-resistant surface	_____
International disability signage displayed	_____

Section Total: _____ / 25

4.2 Curb Ramps and Accessible Entrances

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Maximum slope 1:12	_____
Minimum clear width 120 cm	_____
Handrails installed on both sides	_____
Slip-resistant surfaces	_____
Direct connection to all facilities	_____

Section Total: _____ / 25

4.3 Internal Beach Pathways

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Solid or wooden pathways over sand	_____
Minimum width 150 cm	_____
Adequate wheelchair turning radius	_____
Continuous pathway extending to the sea	_____
Free from obstacles and well maintained	_____

Section Total: _____ / 25

4.4 Accessible Restrooms

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Step-free entrance	_____
Door width ≥ 90 cm	_____
Adequate internal turning space	_____
Grab bars and support rails installed	_____
Emergency call system fitted	_____
Slip-resistant flooring	_____

Section Total: _____ / 30

4.5 Accessible Shower Facilities

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Step-free access	_____
Fixed or movable shower seating provided	_____
Grab bars installed	_____
Easy-to-operate water controls	_____
Privacy and safety ensured	_____

Section Total: _____ / 25

4.6 Sea Access Facilities

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Dedicated pathway reaching the water's edge	_____
Beach or floating wheelchairs available	_____
Ramps or certified safe entry systems	_____
Trained assistance staff available	_____

Section Total: _____ / 20

4.7 Cafeterias and Food Service Areas

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Step-free accessible entrances	_____
Adequate circulation space	_____
Wheelchair-accessible tables	_____
Lowered service counters	_____

Accessible menu formats provided	_____
Slip-resistant flooring	_____

Section Total: _____ / 30

4.8 Rest and Seating Areas

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Designated wheelchair-accessible seating zones	_____
Shaded areas for sun protection	_____
Firm and stable ground surfaces	_____
Located near essential services	_____

Section Total: _____ / 20

4.9 Safety and Lifeguard Services

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Specialized disability-assistance training	_____
Appropriate rescue equipment available	_____
Documented emergency response plan	_____
Effective communication with beach users	_____

Section Total: _____ / 20

4.10 Autism-Friendly Area

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Quiet zone established away from noise	_____
Reduced sensory stimuli	_____
Calm, neutral colour schemes	_____
Simplified visual signage	_____
Family/caregiver support permitted	_____

Section Total: _____ / 25

4.11 Signage and Wayfinding

Requirement	Score (1–5)
International accessibility symbols used	_____
High-contrast colour schemes	_____

Large, legible fonts	_____
Directional signage to all facilities	_____
Tactile or Braille signage where practicable	_____

Section Total: _____ / 25

4.12 Supporting Services

Requirement	Score (1–5)
Staff trained in disability awareness	_____
Dedicated disability services desk	_____
Wheelchairs available for visitor use	_____
Regular maintenance of accessible facilities	_____
Complaint and feedback mechanism in place	_____

Section Total: _____ / 25

Overall Assessment Summary

Total Score Achieved	_____ / 250
Overall Percentage	_____ %
Accreditation Level Awarded	_____
Assessor Signature & Date	_____

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