

**ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER (EWF)  
GROUND AND FLOOR SURFACES REQUIREMENT**

**ADAAG 4.5.1 General** states: “Ground and floor surfaces along accessible routes and in accessible rooms and spaces including floors, walks, ramps, stair, and curb ramps, shall be stable, firm, slip-resistant, and shall comply with 4.5.”

**Interpretive Opinion DCAB 2008-02** states: Engineered Wood Fibers (EWF) may provide accessible surfaces in compliance with the criteria for firmness, stability, slip resistance, and changes in level when the product is properly installed and maintained. DCAB warns that the use of EWF if not properly maintained, may become a non-accessible surface that does not comply with ADAAG Section 4.5.

Where EWF is used in areas required to be accessible, it shall be firm, stable and slip-resistant and the EWF shall be maintained to remain compliant with the ADAAG requirements of section 4.5.

- EWF shall be maintained so as to remain firm, stable and slip resistant.
- Changes in level at the connection of the EWF to other ground or floor materials along the accessible route and within the area covered by the EWF, shall not exceed ½ inch. Between ¼ inch and ½ inch the change in level shall be beveled with a slope no greater than 1:2

*Advisory: A firm surface resists deformation by either indentations or particles moving on its surface.*

*A stable surface is one that remains unchanged by contaminants or applied force, so that when the contaminant or force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition.*

*A slip-resistant surface provides sufficient frictional counterforce to the forces exerted in walking to permit safe ambulation.*

*Advisory: The U.S. Access Board’s Final Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas Economic Assessment dated October 2000 concluded: “The expense of installing a higher priced surfacing that needs less maintenance could be less than the expense of installing a lower priced surface that needs more maintenance. This situation is most likely to occur in regions with relatively high labor rates.”*

**The U.S. Department of Justice’s ADA Title II Technical Assistance Manual Section II-3.10000 Maintenance of Accessible Features** states: “Public entities must maintain in working order equipment and features of facilities that are required to provide ready access to individuals with disabilities. Isolated or temporary interruptions in access due to maintenance and repair of accessible features are not prohibited.”

**EWF MAINTENANCE STATEMENT  
Relating to a project under review for §103-50, HRS**

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_ DCAB Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

The Disability and Communication Access Board does not review or enforce maintenance plans or procedures. State and county departments or agencies shall acknowledge their understanding of their responsibility and obligation to maintain the accessible EWF surface in compliance with the ADAAG Section 4.5 Ground and Floor Surfaces. This acknowledgement may be met by the signature of the director, or his or her designee, of the State or county department overseeing the project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print) of Director ,Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department/Agency