

1994 Texas Accessibility Standards

Technical Memorandum

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Architectural Barriers

Issue Date: November 3, 1998
Revised: February 19, 1999

TM 99-01

Assembly Areas 4.33

Scoping and Application 4.1.3(19)(a)

The exception in TAS 4.33.3 states: Accessible viewing positions may be clustered for bleachers, balconies, and other areas having sight lines that require slopes greater than 5 percent. Equivalent accessible viewing positions may be located on levels having accessible egress.

Based on a recent court case, TDLR will apply the following criteria for purposes of ensuring compliance with TAS 4.33. The accessible seating must be located in a way that avoids physical discomfort. Discomfort usually occurs when the vertical viewing angle to the top of the element being viewed exceeds 30 to 35 degrees and the lateral-viewing angle to the centerline of the element perpendicular to the seat exceeds 15 degrees. Exceeding each of these may result in uncomfortable head and/or body positioning. This determination is based in part on the guidelines established by The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE EG 18-1994 recommendations for optimal angles of line of sight in movie theaters).

Accessible viewing positions cannot be placed at locations where the person's line of sight to the top or bottom of the element being viewed (movie screen, performance stage, etc.) exceeds 30 to 35 degrees vertically. The locations also cannot be placed where the line of sight to the centerline of the element being viewed exceeds 15 degrees laterally. The criteria contained in this memorandum is not intended to be applied to sporting event facilities or specialty auditoriums such as those designed and constructed for the purposes of showing an OMNI or an IMAX-type film

