

Mayor's Office on Disability

Information Bulletin MOD-08



Subject	Reach Ranges to Operable Parts	
References	2019 California Building Code (CBC)2010 ADA Standards (ADAS)Fair Housing Act Design Manual (FHADM)	
Purpose	This bulletin provides guidance for the accessible mounting locations of electrical outlets, switches, and controls.	

For more information visit the Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD) website: sfgov.org/mod

CBC Code Section Summary 1136A Receptacles, controls, and switch heights in Adaptable Units. 1138A.3 Reach ranges in Adaptable Units. 1138A.4 Controls and operating mechanisms.
1138A.3 Reach ranges in Adaptable Units.
1138A.4 Controls and operating mechanisms.
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11B-205 Operable parts.
11B-305 Clear floor space.
11B-306 Knee and toe clearance.
11B-308.1 Measurement of reach ranges for switches and outlets.
11B-308.2 Forward Reach, unobstructed and obstructed.
11B-308.3 Side Reach, unobstructed and obstructed over 34"max high counter.
11B-804.3 Kitchen work surface.
11B-804.6 Appliances.
ADAS Section Summary
ADAS 205 Operable Parts.
FHADM Section Summary
Requirement five, page 5.8 Mounting locations for outlets.

Criteria for Outlets and Controls at Kitchen Counters

- Adaptable Units: Inaccessible outlets and controls are acceptable provided that comparable accessible ones are provided within the same area.
- 2. All switches shall be located within accessible reach ranges.
- 3. Architectural drawings shall show locations of all operable parts, including minimum and maximum heights and distances from obstructions.
- 4. Position wall devices over countertops horizontally for easier reach (recommended).

Residential Dwelling Unit Terminology

Mobility Unit: Residential dwelling unit per 11B-233.3.1.1 providing mobility features complying with Sections 11B-809.2 through 11B-809.4.

Adaptable Unit: Residential dwelling unit per 11B-233.3.1.2, providing adaptable accessibility features as required by Sections 11B-233.3.1.2.1 through 11B-233.3.1.2.6.

Communication Unit: Residential dwelling unit per 11B-233.3.1.3, providing communication features complying with Section 11B-809.5.

Accessible Device Box

Inaccessible Device Box

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1 Side and Forward Reach Ranges

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