

Section 2. Regional Class Vessels

ADA Recommendations for Regional Class Scientific Vessels

The following items are recommended for consideration for ADA accommodations on Regional Class UNOLS vessels. Some of the specified items are more difficult to accomplish and have larger cost factors within this class of vessel, especially the local and smaller regional sizes. It should also be understood that the specific design of the vessel will place constraints on the level of ADA accommodations that can be achieved. The (reference numbers) indicate the specific detailed requirements that are listed in Section 5.

New research vessels should include as many of the following accommodations in scientific workspaces and living quarters as possible to conform to ADA while taking into account the size of the vessel and any special circumstances. A list of suggested design features for various scientific work spaces and accommodations is given below but it should not be considered exhaustive.

Stateroom

One designated stateroom or convertible space to accommodate mobility disabled on main deck or by access with a personnel elevator (or person-rated platform lift).

- Berthing arrangements should conform to space and height standard (RV806)
- Space in passageway to provide for turning into ADA stateroom(s)
- Install sliding pocket doors in ADA staterooms
- Provide rail restraints for berths
- Desks configurations should conform to industry standard (RV902)
- Toilet, Sink and Shower arrangement should conform to industry standards (RV604 to RV610)
- Improve lighting that can be controlled
- Emergency procedures/manuals should be formatted for visually impaired

Special alarms in staterooms to alert in emergency situations:

- Stateroom equipped with wiring to accept portable alarm kits to accommodate hearing and vision impairments
- Mobil wigglers should be provided to vision and hearing impaired to provide alarm warning while in their stateroom as well as other science spaces.
- Strobes should be placed in staterooms and other science spaces to provide alarm to hearing and vision impaired.
- Vibrating bunk pads should be provided to hearing impaired to provide alarm while they are sleeping.
- Install signage for thermostat and other controls

Common Living Areas

- Recessed protrusions should be installed in all common living and work areas
- Safe storage for emergency gear like fire axes
- Signage installed to alert of hazards (RV216)

Passageways (RV403)

- Space in passageway for turning into staterooms and all common areas
- Hand rails and grab bars for mobility impaired and wheelchairs
- Ladder hand rails should start before the first step and installed on both sides

- Tactile stripping installed to alert of obstructions and/or steps
- Improve lighting in stairwells and ladder areas
- Door lips that are wheel chair friendly are needed

Public Restrooms adjacent to main laboratory (RV604 to RV606)

Drinking Fountains if provided should be installed on each deck (RV602)

Mess Deck (RV902)

- One table with clear access and away from heavy traffic patterns
- Food and drink service areas should be designed to be accessible

Lounge/Library (RV902)

Laundry Facilities (RV611) (operational solution needed??)

Scientific Work Spaces

- Reach distances to science equipment controls need to be considered
- Improved lighting that can be controlled
- Increase number of data displays with high contrast visual displays
- Maintain line-of-sight in labs
- Lab Bench height in Main/Wet/Computer/Electronics Lab (RV902 and RV308)
- Adjustable heights for lab sinks, portable hoods,
- Lower safety facilities such as eye wash, shower pulls and alarm pull downs

Scientific Vans

- Optimize access to science and living vans
- Lab standards should be implemented for science vans

Weather Decks

- Gangway design should be developed to assure accessibility for both normal and emergency conditions
- Audio signals should be installed on hatchways and possibly induction mechanisms
- Ladder hand rails should start before the first step and installed on both sides
- Tactile stripping installed to alert of obstructions and/or steps
- Signage installed on weather decks to alert of hazards (RV216)

General Requirements

- Adequate lighting
- Accessibility of gangway, weather decks and passageways
- Establish a pool of ADA equipment (e.g. wheelchairs, portable alarm kits)
- Create a guidance document for vessel communications with disabled scientists and include in pre-cruise planning
- Incorporate ADA accessibility and procedures in the RV Safety Manual
- Upgrade general communications plan keeping disabled in mind
- Devise and post rescue procedures for disabled
- Implement a volunteer “buddy system” procedures for disabled
- Establish and improve? personnel elevator reliability
- Immersion suits should be customized with extra zippers for the disabled
- Establish regulations for guide dogs, hearing dogs etc for cruises which also includes animal permits required at international ports of call.

Vessel Operational Spaces Used by Crew Members (Bridge, Engine Room, Winch Room, etc.) Access of science personnel to operational spaces such as the bridge and engine room are

usually restricted due to regulations or the hazardous environment(s). No ADA accommodations are anticipated for vessel spaces that are normally occupied only by crew members.

Note on Accessibility and Emergency Egress

Accessibility to the vessel via the gangway should be reviewed for ease of access and egress of impaired members of the scientific party. Design and deployment of the gangway to avoid steep inclines should be attempted if possible to improve safety for all personnel but especially for vision impaired and mobility limited. For wheelchair access it may be prudent to deploy a personnel cage with the ships crane to minimize problems with docking facilities in ports with high tidal ranges and the variety of docking arrangements.