

California law establishes all-gender restroom signage requirements

By Bryan Moffitt, SIA ADA Specialist

Under new law effective March 1, 2017, all gender-specific single-user restrooms at school and district facilities are to be converted to unisex/all-gender restrooms. The existing accessible door and wall signage are to be removed and replaced with gender-neutral signage.

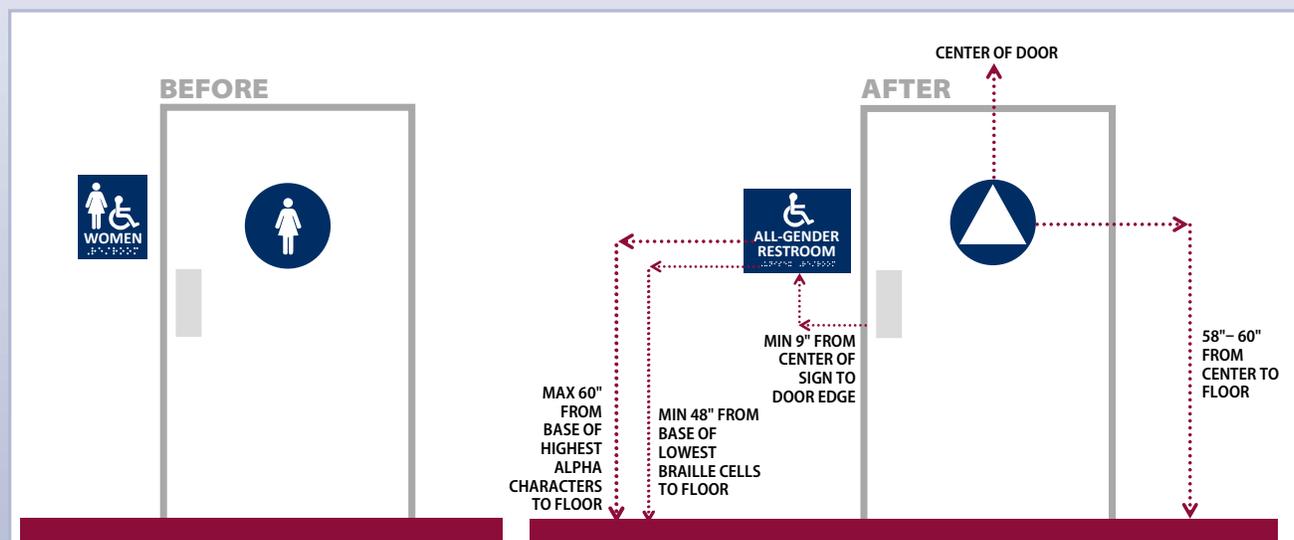
The updated signage regulations were prompted by the passage of Assembly Bill 1732 (Ting, Chapter 818, Statutes of 2016) that was signed into California law in September 2016. This law updates the California Health and Safety Code to require that all single-user restroom facilities be identified as all-gender toilet facilities. The law is applicable to schools, community colleges, business establishments, and state and local government agencies. The California Division of State Architect (DSA) will incorporate plan check review for

this signage in all new construction and alteration projects involving single-user restroom facilities beginning March 1.

The DSA office has published DSA Bulletin 17-01 to provide guidance to school districts regarding the newly created all-gender signage rules for single-user restrooms at school facilities. The Bulletin, released in January 2017, is titled *Identification of Single-User Toilet Facilities as All-Gender*. The document includes detailed information for the new requirements, which meet both the 2016 CBC Title 24 accessibility standards for restroom signage and the provisions for all-gender signage.

For door signage, this will mean the same geometric light-on-dark triangle superimposed on a circle signage that contrasts with the door color currently used for

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Example of single-user restroom signage conversion to all-gender.





All-gender restroom signage requirements *(continued from page 1)*

accessible unisex restrooms. However, DSA advises against the use of pictograms or other gender-identifying information and also clarifies that this information is not required for door signage in the 2016 CBC Chapter 11B accessibility building standards.

Restrooms with existing tactile Braille wall signage will also need to be replaced with signage that contains gender-neutral terms such as “All-Gender,” “Restroom” or “Unisex Restroom.” SIA recommends the inclusion of the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) on wall signage for restrooms that meet the plumbing elements and facilities accessibility standards contained in CBC Part 2 Chapter 11B Division 6. Most school districts have at least some school buildings and facilities whose original construction predates the adoption of the state CBC and federal ADA accessibility building standards. These schools commonly have a mix of both recently renovated and older single-user restrooms that are not consistent with the accessibility standards. The addition of the ISA on adjacent wall signage, where appropriate, is important in identifying those restrooms that are accessible for users with disabilities.

Existing unisex restrooms with appropriate door and wall signage consistent with the CBC Chapter 11B standards do not appear to have further requirements at this time. Although male and female pictograms on unisex restroom signage are not encouraged or advisable under the new rules, they are not specifically prohibited. However, per Bulletin 17-01, DSA will require this signage to be replaced in conjunction with plan check reviews during future new construction or alteration work that has those restroom facilities within the scope of the project.

The new all-gender signage is required to meet the existing installation requirements under the 2016 CBC Chapter 11B accessibility standards. Detailed graphics illustrating the correct position for both restroom door and wall signage are available on the SIA website at www.sia-jpa.org. The DSA Bulletin 17-01 is available at https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dsa/bulletins/BU_17-01.pdf. For questions or more information, contact ADA Specialist Bryan Moffitt at bmoffitt@sia-jpa.org.



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