


  
**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Environment and Climate Change

**Accessible Restaurants Standard**

<b>Approved by:</b>	 Lora MacEachern, Q.C., Deputy Minister
<b>Effective date:</b>	
<b>Version control:</b>	1.0 – New Standard

**I. PURPOSE**

All new restaurants must have accessible entryways, washroom facilities and pathways. The specific requirements to consider a restaurant having accessible entryways, washroom facilities and pathways are described in this Standard.

**II. AUTHORITY AND SCOPE**

Effective May 17th 2022, section 19(4) of the Food Safety Regulations, pursuant to the Health Protection Act, states the following:

**19(4)** All of the following types of restaurants must have accessible entryways, washroom facilities and pathways that are considered acceptable by the Minister:

- (a) newly constructed restaurants;
- (b) restaurants located in a converted space that was not previously occupied by a restaurant;
- (c) restaurants located in a pre-existing restaurant space that was closed for at least 12 months prior to the submission of an application for a food establishment permit for the new restaurant.

This Standard has been established pursuant to section 4(1) of the Food Safety Regulations to give direction in interpreting and complying with section 19(4).

Restaurants that existed prior to the amendment of section 19(4) and do not fit within one of the categories in section 19(4) will be assessed for accessibility at a later date. Therefore, at this time these restaurants will not be required to comply.

### **III. REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Restaurants must comply with the Nova Scotia Building Code**

- 1** Restaurants described in 19(4) of the Food Safety Regulations shall comply with the sections relevant to accessibility in the current Nova Scotia Building Code Regulations, pursuant to the Building Code Act.

#### **Professionals determining compliance**

- 2 (1)** Compliance with section 1 must be determined by one of the following professionals:
  - (a) a licensed professional member of Nova Scotia Association of Architects (NSAA); or,
  - (b) a Professional Engineer registered with Engineers Nova Scotia.
- (2)** In a case where compliance with 19(4)(b) of the Food Safety Regulations is required, determination of compliance by a municipal or provincial building inspector is also considered acceptable.

#### **Proof of compliance**

- 3 (1)** A letter confirming the restaurant complies with section 1, and has accessible entryways, washroom facilities and pathways from a professional described in section 2 shall be considered proof of compliance.
- (2)** For restaurants described in 19(4)(a) of the Food Safety Regulations, an occupancy permit shall also be considered proof of compliance.
- (3)** In cases where the occupancy permit does not demonstrate compliance with section 1, a letter from a licensed professional described in section 2 may be required as determined by the Inspector.