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Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
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Steve Poftak, General Manager



DESIGN DIRECTIVE

To: Distribution

From: Erik J. Stoothoff, P.E. 
Chief Engineer

Date: 12/23/2020

RE: Code and Regulation Variances

This design directive is intended to consolidate, reiterate, supplement, and clarify the MBTA's walkway, ramp and stair design approach, preferences, and requirements.

In the event that conditions warrant deviation from this directive, a design waiver signed by The Chief Engineer and department owning the scope of work will be required of the project.

Design Consultants shall design to standards as prescribed by Code. MBTA Standards shall apply only where Code does not address a topic or the MBTA requires a standard above and beyond Code. The more stringent shall always apply.

PURPOSE

All variance of a code or regulatory requirement proposed by a designer shall be approved by the Chief Engineer in writing, and co-signed by the Chief Engineer prior to the proponent requesting the variance of the Authority Having Jurisdiction. There are many instances where the Chief Engineer will require prior approval of the technical merits from other MBTA departments such as MBTA Safety, System Wide Accessibility, Railroad Operations, or others prior to reviewing and approving a proposed variance.