

1017 Trails

1017.1 General. Trails shall comply with 1017.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. Where an entity determines that a condition in 1019 does not permit full compliance with a specific requirement in 1017 on a portion of a trail, that portion of the trail shall comply with the specific requirement to the maximum extent feasible. The entity shall document the basis for the determination, and shall maintain the documentation with the records for the construction or alteration project.

2. Where an entity determines that it is impracticable for an entire trail to comply with 1017, the trail shall not be required to comply with 1017. The entity shall document the basis for the determination, and shall maintain the documentation with the records for the construction or alteration project.

Advisory 1017.1 General Exception 1. Exception 1 can be applied to specific requirements in 1017 on a portion of a trail where full compliance with the requirement cannot be achieved due to any of the conditions in 1019.

Advisory 1017.1 General Exception 2. An entity should first apply Exception 1 to determine the portions of a trail where full compliance with the specific requirements in 1017 cannot be achieved. An entity should then evaluate the entire trail, taking into account the portions of the trail that can and cannot fully comply with the requirements in 1017 and the extent of compliance where full compliance cannot be achieved to determine whether it would be impracticable for the entire trail to comply with 1017. The determination is made on a case-by-case basis.

1017.2 Surface. The surface of trails and their related passing spaces and resting intervals shall be firm and stable.

Advisory 1017.2 Surface. A stable surface remains unchanged by applied force so that when the force is removed, the surface returns to its original condition. A firm surface resists deformation by indentations.

1017.3 Clear Tread Width. The clear tread width of trails shall be 36 inches (915 mm) minimum.

EXCEPTION: The clear tread width shall be permitted to be reduced to 32 inches (815 mm) minimum for a length of 24 inches (610 mm) maximum provided that reduced width segments are separated by segments that are 48 inches (1220 mm) long minimum and 36 inches (915 mm) wide minimum.

1017.4 Passing Spaces. Trails with a clear tread width less than 60 inches (1525 mm) shall provide passing spaces complying with 1017.4 at intervals of 1000 feet (300 m) maximum. Where the full length of the trail does not comply with 1017, the last passing space shall be located at the end of the trail segment complying with 1017. Passing spaces and resting intervals shall be permitted to overlap.

Advisory 1017.4 Passing Spaces. Entities should consider providing either a 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum clear tread width, or passing spaces at shorter intervals if the clear tread width is less than 60 inches (1525 mm), where a trail is:

Heavily used;

A boardwalk; or

Not at the same level as the ground surface adjoining the trail.

Where the full length of the trail does not comply with 1017, placing the last passing space at the end of the trail segment complying with 1017 enables a person using a wheelchair to turn around and exit the trail.

1017.4.1 Size. The passing space shall be either:

A space 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum by 60 inches (1525 mm) minimum; or

The intersection of two trails providing a T-shaped space complying with 304.3.2 where the base and the arms of the T-shaped space extend 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum beyond the intersection. Vertical alignment at the intersection of the trails that form the T-shaped space shall be nominally planar.

1017.5 Obstacles. Tread obstacles on trails and their related passing spaces and resting intervals shall comply with 1017.5.

1017.5.1 Concrete, Asphalt, or Boards. Where the surface is concrete, asphalt, or boards, tread obstacles shall not exceed ½ inch (13 mm) in height measured vertically to the highest point.

1017.5.2 Other Surfaces. Where the surface is other than specified in 1017.4.1, tread obstacles shall not exceed 2 inches (50 mm) in height measured vertically to the highest point.

Advisory 1017.5 Tread Obstacles. The vertical alignment of joints in concrete, asphalt, or board surfaces can be tread obstacles. Natural features, such as tree roots and rocks, within the trail tread can also be tread obstacles. Where possible, tread obstacles should be separated by a distance of 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum so persons who use wheelchairs can maneuver around the obstacles.

1017.6 Openings. Openings in the surface of trails and their related passing spaces and resting intervals shall comply with 302.3.

EXCEPTION: Openings shall be permitted to be to be a size that does not permit passage of a ¾ inch (19 mm) sphere where openings that do not permit the passage of a ½ inch (6.4 mm) sphere cannot be provided due to the conditions in 1019.

1017.7 Slopes. The slopes of trails shall comply with 1017.7.

1017.7.1 Running Slope. No more than 30 percent of the total length of a trail shall have a running slope steeper than 1:12. The running slope of any segment of a trail shall not be steeper than 1:8. Where the running slope of a segment of a trail is steeper than 1:20, the maximum length of the segment shall be in accordance with Table 1017.7.1, and a resting interval complying with 1017.8 shall be provided at each end of the segment.

Table 1017.7.1 Running Slope and Resting Intervals

Running Slope of Trail Segment		Maximum Length of Segment
Steeper than	But not Steeper than	
1:20	1:12	200 feet (61 m)
1:12	1:10	30 feet (9 m)
1:10	1:8	10 feet (3050 mm)

Advisory 1017.7.1 Running Slope. Running slope can also be expressed as a percentage (grade).

1017.7.2 Cross Slope. The cross slope shall comply with 1017.6.2.

1017.7.2.1 Concrete, Asphalt, or Boards. Where the surface is concrete, asphalt, or boards, the cross slope shall not be steeper than 1:48.

1017.7.2.2 Other Surfaces. Where the surface is other than specified in 1017.7.2.1, the cross slope on other surfaces shall not be steeper than 1:20.

1017.8 Resting Intervals. Resting intervals shall comply with 1017.8.

1017.8.1 Length. The resting interval length shall be 60 inches (1525 mm) long minimum.

1017.8.2 Width. Where resting intervals are provided within the trail tread, resting intervals shall be at least as wide as the widest segment of the trail tread leading to the resting interval. Where resting intervals are provided adjacent to the trail tread, the resting interval clear width shall be 36 inches (915 mm) minimum.

1017.8.3 Slope. Resting intervals shall have a slope complying with 1017.8.3.

1017.8.3.1 Concrete, Asphalt, or Boards. Where the surface is concrete, asphalt, or boards, the slope shall not be steeper than 1:48 in any direction.

1017.8.3.2 Other Surfaces. Where the surface is other than specified in 1017.8.3.1, the slope on other surfaces shall not be steeper than 1:20 in any direction.

1017.8.4 Turning Space. Where resting intervals are provided adjacent to the trail tread, a turning space complying with 304.3.2 shall be provided. Vertical alignment between the trail tread, turning space, and resting interval shall be nominally planar.

1017.9 Protruding Objects. Constructed elements on trails and their related resting intervals and passing spaces shall comply with 307.

Advisory 1017.9 Protruding Objects. Protruding objects on trails and their related resting intervals and passing spaces can be hazardous for persons who are blind or have low vision. Signs and other post mounted objects are examples of constructed elements that can be protruding objects.

1017.10 Gates and Barriers. Where gates or barriers are constructed to control access to trails, gates and barriers shall comply with 1017.10.

1017.10.1 Clear Width. Gate openings and openings in barriers for hiker passage shall provide a clear width complying with 404.2.3.

1017.10.2 Gate Hardware. Gate hardware shall comply with 404.2.7.

1017.11 Trail Signs. Trail signs shall include the following information:

Length of the trail or trail segment;

Surface type;

Typical and minimum tread width;

Typical and maximum running slope; and

Typical and maximum cross slope.