City of Hollister
Community Development Department
Building Division
339 Fifth Street, Hollister, CA 95023
Ph. (831) 636-4355 Email: permitcenter@hollister.ca.us

UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP DETERMINATION FOR COMMERCIAL ALTERATION PROJECTS

When the total construction cost of **alterations, structural repairs or additions to existing buildings** and facilities does not exceed a valuation threshold of approximately **$209,208.00 (January 2026)** based on "ENR US20 Cities" average construction cost index of 9971.96 (Engineering News-Record, McGraw Hill Publishing Company), and the enforcing agency finds that full compliance with the requirements for disabled access upgrades serving the area of alteration, structural repair, or addition creates an "unreasonable hardship", an exception can be granted by the enforcing agency to allow for less than full compliance for the upgrades.

https://www.dgs.ca.gov/DSA/Resources/Access-Compliance-Reference-Materials

To be considered for such a determination, please complete the *"Application for Unreasonable Hardship Exception to Disabled Access Requirements"* requesting a determination. Note that such a determination is not a blanket exemption but, rather, limits the required cost of accessibility upgrades to 20% of the cost of your project on items in the following order of priority (as detailed in the 2025 California Building Code Section 11B-202.4, Exceptions 8). In choosing which accessible elements to provide, priority should be given to those elements that will provide the greatest access in the following order:

1. An accessible building entrance and an accessible path of travel to this entrance from either the public sidewalk or the disabled parking stall.

2. An accessible route of travel from the accessible building entrance to the area of alteration, structural repair, or addition.

3. At least one accessible restroom for each sex serving the area of alteration, structural repair, or addition.

4. Accessible telephones, if provided, serving the area of alteration, structural repair, or addition.

5. Accessible drinking fountains, if provided, serving the area of alteration, structural repair, or addition.

6. When possible, additional accessible elements such as parking, storage and alarms.

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Application for Unreasonable Hardship Exception to Disabled Access Requirements

Project Address	Permit No.
Project Name / Description	Total Construction Cost **(Project Valuation)** $ _____

It is requested that the above project be granted an exemption from the requirements of the State of California Title 24, Accessibility Regulations, as specifically listed below. The specific accessibility features that create a hardship may be exempted but not all of them. **The area of alteration itself may not be exempted.**

Access Features Item (provide description below)	Does this feature meet T24's latest edition?	If not, is this feature going to be made accessible as part of this permit?	If so, what is the cost for making this feature accessible? (attach documentation)
1. Path of travel to entrance			$
2. Entrance to building			$
3. Path of travel within building / facility to area of remodel			$
4. Elevator			$
5. Restrooms			$
6. Public telephones (if provided)			$
7. Drinking fountains (if provided)			$
8. Other (parking, signage, etc.)			$
Total cost of access features provided (A)			$
Total cost of construction of this project and all other work performed over the last three years in this tenant space (B)			$
Percent of total cost of project (20% minimum): (A÷B) x 100			%
Description of access features to be provided			

This exception does not relieve the responsible parties from complying with the Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (print)	Signature
Company Name / Title	Company Address

STAFF USE ONLY

Staff Person / Title	**Approval Recommended (Y / N)**
Building Official (Sign & Date)	**Approved/Denied**