



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

August 30, 2019

ALTSA: AFH #2019-013
SLOPES ON LANDINGS IN ADULT FAMILY HOMES

Dear Adult Family Home Provider:

This letter is to provide you with information about the acceptable slope of landings required on ramps used by residents for entrance, exit, and evacuation of an adult family home. Ramps on adult family homes licensed after November 1, 2016, must comply with the International Residential Code (IRC) section R311.8. This section states that ramps must have a floor or landing at the top and bottom of the ramp, where doors open onto a ramp, and where a ramp changes direction. It does not state what the slope of that landing should be. Because of this, the Department has historically required that landings should be flat, meaning that the slope in any direction should be 0 percent.

After consultation with experts in the International Building Code (IBC), the Department has decided to revise this interpretation. The IBC Section 1012.6.1 states that landings should have a slope "not steeper than one unit vertical in 48 units horizontal (2-percent slope) in any direction." Based on this building code and effective immediately, the Department will allow the use of ramps with landings that have a slope of 2 percent or less in any direction for resident entrance, exit, and evacuation. These ramps must also meet the other requirements of the IRC in order to be approved for use by residents, including the requirement that the average slope of the ramp should not exceed 8.3%.

Homes that have ramps previously not allowed due to a slope on the landing may contact the Department using the information below to have them re-inspected for compliance with this new interpretation.

If you have any questions, please contact [Amena Jones](#), Residential Inspection and Quality Assurance Program Manager, (360) 725-2575 or [Libby Wagner](#), AFH Policy Program Manager, (253) 234-6061.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"