

24 | Sign Regulations

Laws regarding signage can exist on the national, state, or local level. The chart below helps illustrate this point. It is important to be aware that your particular state or local codes may vary or supercede federal ADA laws.

Federal ADA

The Federal ADA law, for the most part, covers signs that identify, direct, or provide information regarding a particular room, area, or space.



State Regulations

Some states, such as California and New York, have additional laws or regulations that may vary or supercede federal requirements.



Local Level

Other sign types are governed at the local level (often by the fire marshal or building department) and can vary from area to area.



25 | ADA Sign Summary

The following rules apply to signs that identify a room, space, or area. Informational and directional signs do not require Braille or raised characters, however, they are required to follow some of the other ADA rules. See the next eight pages for more information.

Finish | Characters and their background shall have a non-glare finish

Colors | Character color shall have a distinct contrast from the background color

Pictograms | Pictograms that identify a room shall be in their own 6" high field

Raised Letters | Characters shall be all upper case and raised a minimum of 1/32"

Letter Size | Character shall be between 5/8" and 2", with a minimum of 1/8" spacing

Font | Font shall be sans serif and not overly bold, condensed, or italic

Braille | Braille shall be all together and 3/8" - 1/2" below the last line of raised text

Sign Margin | A minimum 3/8" clear spacing is required around all raised elements

General | Any sign that identifies a room, space, or area shall have raised characters and Braille

General | ADA signs are required in both public access areas as well as all employee areas



| ADA Method | Proper Braille Size and Spacing | Proper Lettering Proportions | Choice of Materials | Subsurface Colors Not Front Painted | Integral Window Slot | Subsurface Graphic Option | 100% ADA Compliant |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Signs of Our Times | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES |
| Photopolymer | ? | ? | No | No | No | No | ? |
| Sandblasted | No | ? | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Etched Metal | No | ? | Yes | No | No | No | No |

26 | ADA Sign Types

This chart illustrates the requirements for each of the four ADA sign types

Identification

Signs that identify a room, space, or area



Information

Signs that provide information about a room, space, or area



Directional

Signs that provide direction to a room, space, or area



Overhead

Wall, ceiling, and projection type signs, mounted overhead



Sign Finish

Non-Glare

Non-Glare

Non-Glare

Non-Glare

Sign Colors

Good Contrast

Good Contrast

Good Contrast

Good Contrast

Braille Required

Yes

No

No

No

Raised Characters

Yes

Not Required

Not Required

Not Required

Pictogram Requirements

Yes - See pg. 29

No Special Req.

No Special Req.

No Special Req.

Character Font

Sans Serif

Sans or Simple Serif

Sans or Simple Serif

Sans or Simple Serif

Character Height

5/8" - 2"

5/8" Minimum *

5/8" Minimum *

2" Minimum *

Character Case

All Uppercase

Upper and/or Lower

Upper and/or Lower

Upper and/or Lower

Character Spacing

1/8" - 4x Stroke

10 - 35% of Stroke

10 - 35% of Stroke

10 - 35% of Stroke

Character Stroke

15% Max of Character Height

10 - 30% Height

10 - 30% Height

10 - 30% Height

Mounting Requirements

See Page 33

None

None

Min. Clearance 80"

* See chart on page 31

Fonts for signs that identify a room or space are required to be sans serif and shall not be italic, oblique, script, or decorative. Furthermore, lettering can not be too bold, condensed, or extended as illustrated below.

Lettering Examples

ADA Compliant Issue

ADA Regulations

FUTURA MEDIUM

Lettering too Bold

Maximum stroke of 15% of character height

FUTURA MEDIUM

Lettering too Condensed

55% Minimum

FUTURA MEDIUM

Lettering too Extended

110% Maximum

Futura Medium

Uppercase and Lower Case

Character must be all Uppercase

FUTURA MEDIUM

Not enough Character Spacing

Minimum 1/8" inter-character spacing

FUTURA MEDIUM

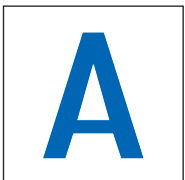
Lettering Italicized

Non-italicized

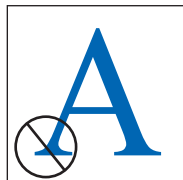
FUTURA MEDIUM

Compliant: Sans Serif - All Uppercase - Proper Spacing

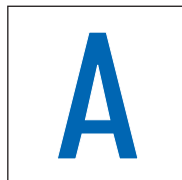
Sans Serif



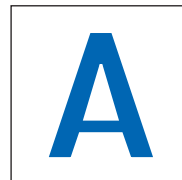
Serif



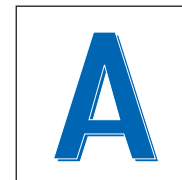
Min. Width 55%



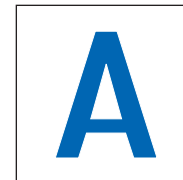
Max. Width 110%



Raised 1/32"



All Uppercase



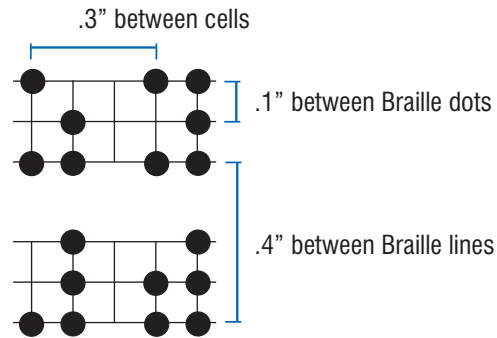
28 | Braille Requirements

There are many rules and guidelines when it comes to Braille. Proper size, shape, correct translation, and placement ensure ease of reading and understanding.

Braille Regulations

- Braille shall be dome-shaped or rounded - Not flat or pointy
- Braille shall be Grade 2 and be precisely sized and spaced
- Braille shall be 3/8" to 1/2" below last line of text
- Braille shall be grouped all together - Not in two separate areas
- Braille shall be in lowercase except for the following:
 - Proper Name - George Jones California
 - Acronyms - U.S.A.
 - Beginning of sentence - Accessible restrooms...
 - A letter in a room number - B320

Braille Spacing



Braille Size and Shape

- — Distinct dome shape
- — .060 diameter at base
- — .025 in height

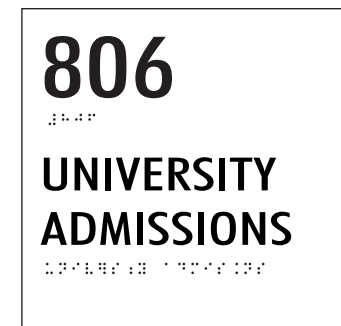
Complaint Braille

Braille all together below last line of text



Not Complaint Braille

Braille in two separate locations



29 | ADA Pictograms

This chart depicts typical pictograms and their proper use. Pictograms used in identifying a room or space shall be within their own 6" high field. There is no specific rule on the height of the pictogram itself.

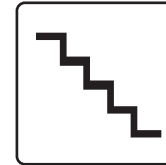
Required Pictograms:

6" high background field required.

No text or Braille shall be located within the pictogram field.



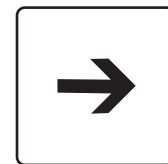
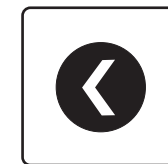
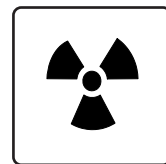
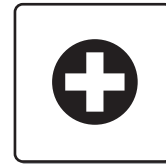
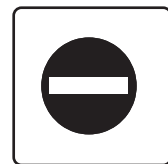
Room Sign Pictograms are not required, but are recommended. If used, a 6" high background field is required.



Miscellaneous Pictograms:

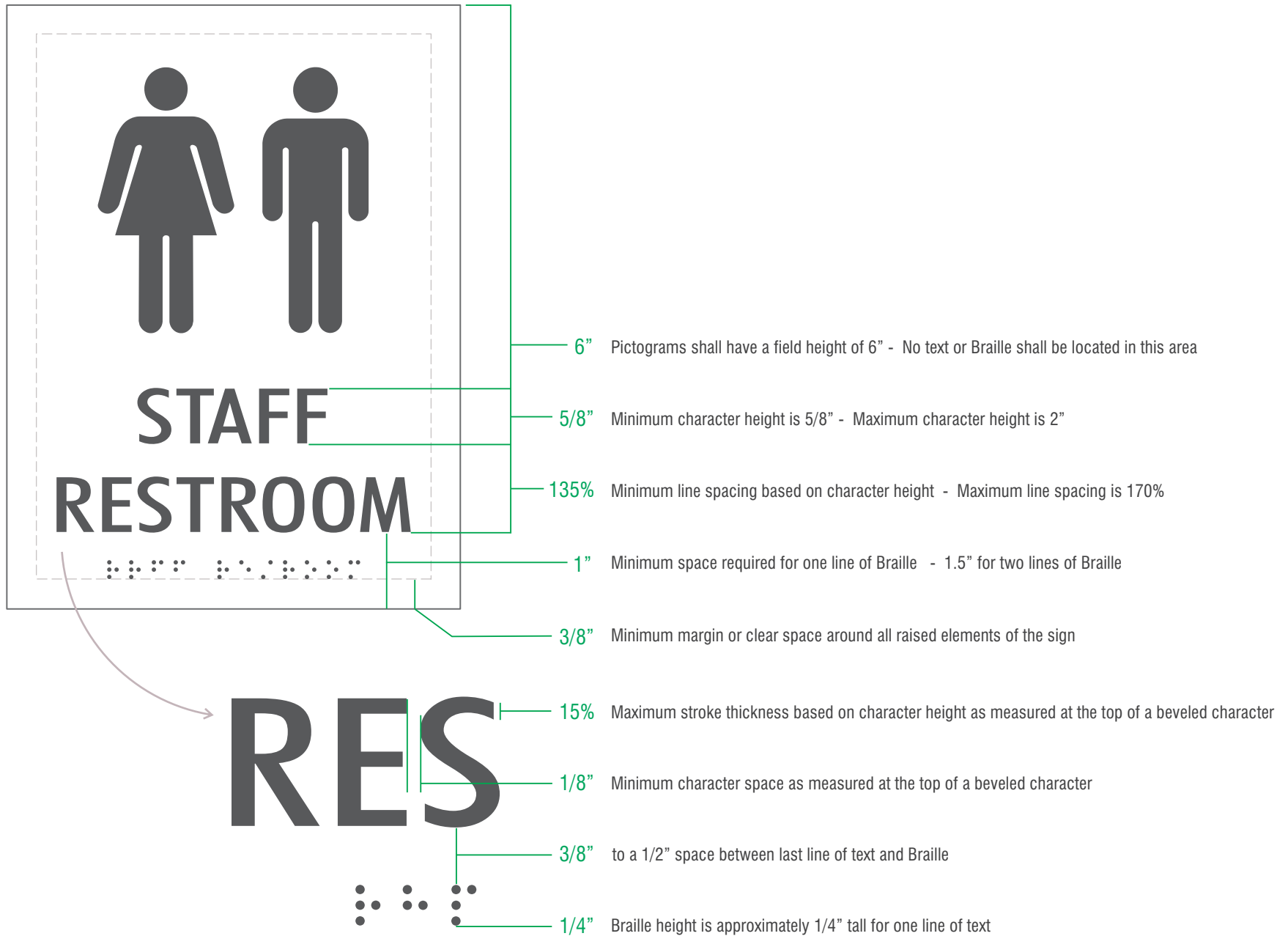
Informational or directional.

No field height requirement.



30 | Size and Spacing

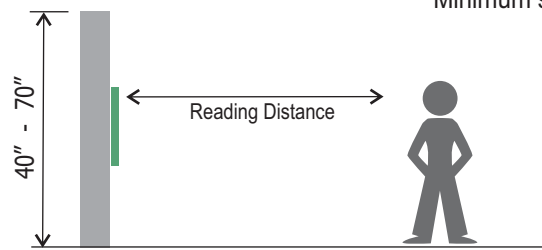
The proper spacing and size of different elements of an ADA sign is vital when someone is trying to read the sign visually or by touch. Characters, graphics, or Braille that are too close together or are too small make it hard to read or understand.



31 | Character Height

Use this chart to determine the required character size of your ADA sign based on the mounting height of the sign and the likely viewing distance. The minimum character height will be indicated in the corresponding box below.

Sign Mounted
between 40" - 70"

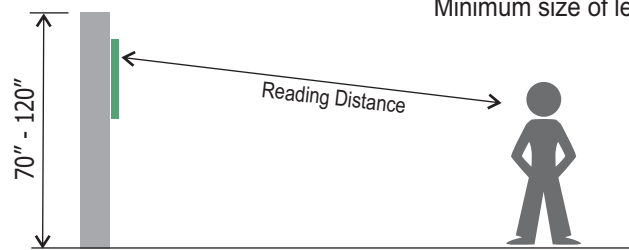


Distance sign is to be read →

Minimum size of lettering →

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Under 6 Feet | 7 Feet | 8 - 9 Feet | 10 - 11 Feet | 12 - 13 Feet | 14 - 15 Feet |
| 5/8" | 3/4" | 1" | 1.25" | 1.5" | 1.75" |
| 16 - 17 Feet | 18 - 19 Feet | 20 - 21 Feet | 22 - 23 Feet | 24 - 25 Feet | 26 - 27 Feet |
| 2" | 2.25" | 2.5" | 2.75" | 3" | 3.25" |

Sign Mounted
between 70" - 120"

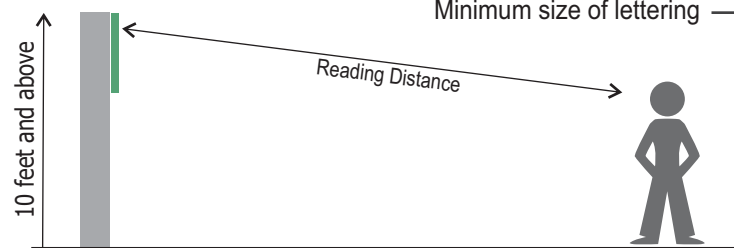


Distance sign is to be read →

Minimum size of lettering →

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Under 15 Feet | 16 - 17 Feet | 18 - 19 Feet | 20 - 21 Feet | 22 - 23 Feet | 24 - 25 Feet |
| 2" | 2.25" | 2.5" | 2.75" | 3" | 3.25" |
| 26 - 27 Feet | 28 - 29 Feet | 30 - 31 Feet | 32 - 33 Feet | 34 - 35 Feet | 36 - 37 Feet |
| 3.5" | 3.75" | 4" | 4.25" | 5" | 5.25" |

Sign Mounted
over 120" (10 feet)



Distance sign is to be read →

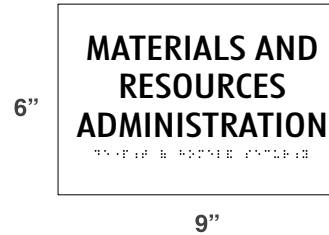
Minimum size of lettering →

| | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Under 21 Feet | 22 - 23 Feet | 24 - 25 Feet | 26 - 27 Feet | 28 - 29 Feet | 30 - 31 Feet |
| 3" | 3.25" | 3.5" | 3.75" | 4" | 4.25" |
| 32 - 33 Feet | 34 - 35 Feet | 36 - 37 Feet | 38 - 39 Feet | 40 - 41 Feet | 42 - 45 Feet |
| 4.5" | 4.75" | 5" | 5.25" | 5.5" | 6" |

32 | Sign Sizing Chart

The two tables below were developed to help you determine the proper size of your ADA sign based on lettering height and the number of characters and lines per sign. It best to keep like sign types the same size.

- 1 - Select your letter size (We recommend a minimum of 3/4" letters).
- 2 - Determine the number of characters and spaces in the longest line of text.
- 3 - Determine the number of lines required.
- 4 - Use the tables below to determine the sign size. See example to the right.



The sign to the left has 3/4" letters with 13 characters / spaces across and 3 lines of copy. Using the two tables below, the sign would have to be at least 6 x 9" to be ADA compliant.

Length of Sign

| | | 3" | 4" | 5" | 6" | 7" | 8" | 9" | 10" | 12" | 14" | 16" |
|-------------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Letter Size | 5/8" | 4 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 17 | 19 | 23 | 27 | 31 |
| | 3/4" | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 19 | 21 | 24 |
| | 7/8" | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 17 | 20 |
| | 1" | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | 1.25" | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 |

Maximum number of characters and spaces per line based on letter height and sign length

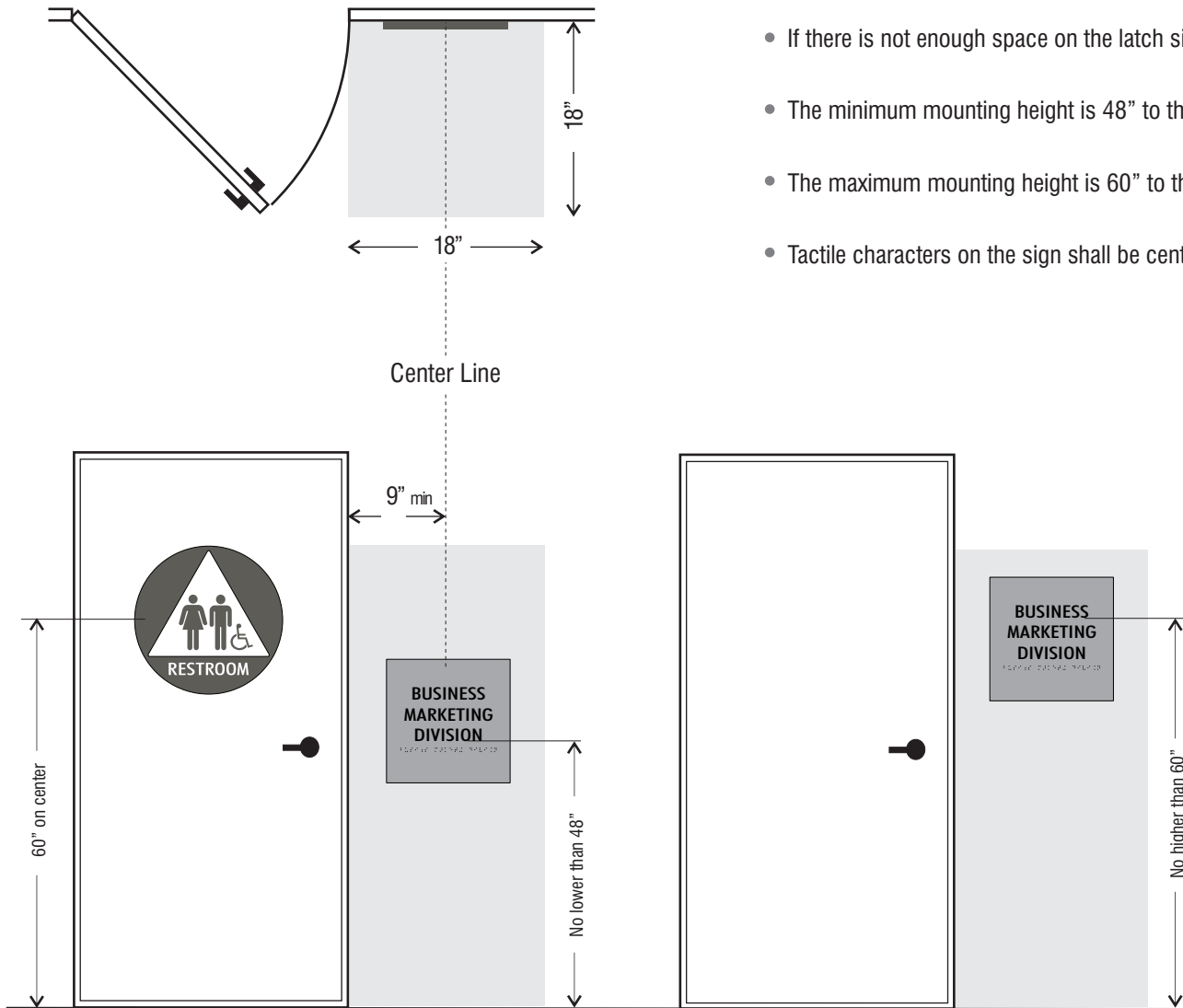
Height of Sign

| | | 3" | 4" | 4.5" | 6" | 7" | 8" | 9" | 10" | 12" |
|-------------|-------|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Letter Size | 5/8" | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | 3/4" | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| | 7/8" | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 |
| | 1" | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| | 1.25" | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Maximum number of lines allowed based on letter height

33 | Mounting Guidelines

Below are general guidelines for mounting room signs with raised characters and Braille. The mounting height has a range of acceptable heights. Always check with your state and local codes as well as your building inspector before installing signs.



- Room signs shall be mounted on the latch side of the door.
- If there is not enough space on the latch side, then the sign can be mounted on the nearest adjacent wall.
- The minimum mounting height is 48" to the baseline of the lowest line in the sign.
- The maximum mounting height is 60" to the baseline of the highest line in the sign.
- Tactile characters on the sign shall be centered within an minimum 18 x 18" clear floor space.