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TECHNICAL HANDBOOK FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENGINEERING  
VOLUME III - HEALTH CARE FACILITIES DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
**PART 21 - DESIGN CRITERIA AND STANDARDS**

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**CHAPTER 21-7 ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter adopts Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, as the accessibility standard for Indian Health Service (IHS) health care facilities and quarters. This law passed by Congress on January 26, 1992, prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by private entities in places of public accommodation, and requires that all new places of public accommodation and commercial facilities be designed and constructed so as to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. The ADA Title III will be the IHS standard for ensuring IHS health care facilities and quarters comply with the design criteria requirements for handicapped accessibility. Two slightly differing standards exist, the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is the more comprehensive of the two standards, and UFAS is being revised, to eventually conform to the ADA.

**B. REFERENCE STANDARDS**

Copies may be obtained from the Office on the Americans with Disabilities Act at (202)514-0301 (Voice) or (202)514-0381 (TDD). This rule is also available on electronic bulletin board at (202)514-6193.