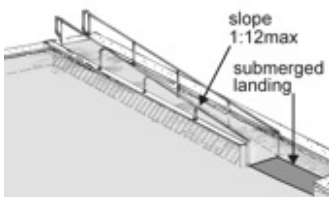**ada** Northeast ADA Center

Other Means of Pool Access

Lifts are a popular way to provide swimming pool access, and we describe them in our fact sheet *ADA Requirements for Swimming Pool Lifts*. But pool lifts are not the end of the story, and Chapter 10 of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design includes other options, which are summarized below. Each summary includes a Chapter 10 section number; see www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAstandards.htm#c10

Accessible recreation includes access INTO the pool!

Swimming pools with less than 300 linear feet of pool wall require either a lift or sloped entry to the water, but pools with more than 300 linear feet of pool wall must have a lift or sloped entry as the primary means of access, while the secondary means may be an option described below.
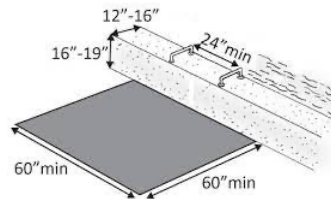

Sloped Entry
(Section 1009.3)

- Is essentially a ramp into a pool.
- Technical requirements address the depth of the ramp surface, landings, slope of the ramp, and handrails.
- Typically, personal wheelchairs should not go in pools for reasons including damage to batteries and motors. Facilities should consider providing aquatic wheelchairs, but this is not required by the ADA Standards.
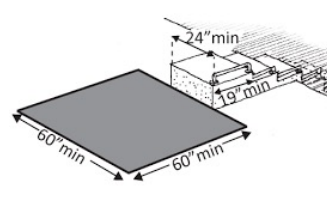
Transfer Walls
(Section 1009.4)

- Allows a person to leave a mobility device and then transfer onto the wall and into the pool.
- Technical requirements address the wall height, grab bars, and clear deck space next to the transfer wall.
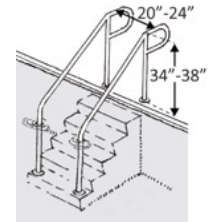
Transfer Systems
(Section 1009.5)

- Has a platform that people transfer onto from a mobility device and steps that descend into the water.
- Technical requirements address the clear deck space by the platform, height and width of the platform and steps, grab bars, and depth of the steps below water level.

Pool Stairs
(Section 1009.6)

- Supports a standing entry or exit.
- Technical requirements regulate the handrails, risers, and stair treads.

* Drawn images courtesy New England ADA Center, a project of the Institute for Human Centered Design.