Revised Ada Regulations Take Effect Today

Center for Persons with Disabilities

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Twenty years ago the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed by President Bush—July 26, 1990. After two decades, change is coming to the ADA.

Starting today, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, the newly revised regulations will take effect.

“The new rules usher in a new day for the more than 50 million individuals with disabilities in this country,” said Thomas E. Perez, assistant attorney general for civil rights. “The rules will expand accessibility in a number of areas.”

Those areas include first-ever accessibility requirements for swimming pools, parks, and other recreational facilities. Additionally, the revised regulations set standards for the use of wheelchairs versus other mobility devices and address accessible seating at entertainment venues and hotel room reservations.

Businesses will get some options with the new regulations, since only buildings constructed or altered after March 15, 2012 will have to comply with these new accessibility requirements.