



Incorporate accessibility when procuring goods, services and facilities

To help make Ontario accessible to people with disabilities, the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) requires all public sector organizations in the province to incorporate accessibility when they procure goods, services and facilities. This summary will help you find out what you need to do.

When do I need to comply?

This requirement is being phased in over time.

Government of Ontario		2012
Public Sector Organizations	50+ employees	2013
	1-49 employees	2014

What do I have to do?

When you procure goods, services and facilities, you consider criteria to make your decision, such as quality, cost and timing. Now you need to make accessibility design and features part of your criteria, where possible.

Here are some examples:

1. Accessibility criteria

You need a food service provider for an event. Does the company you are considering train their staff on providing accessible service?

2. Technical features

You are planning to buy new software. Does it have accessibility features so that people with disabilities can use it?

3. Structural features

You are looking for a location to host your annual meeting. Can the facility you are considering accommodate people with disabilities?



Example

Stacy is looking for a conference centre that can host her company's annual staff day. To pick the facility, she's looking at location and cost. She also wants to make sure the facility has accessible washrooms and staff who have received accessibility training.

What if it's not possible for me to do this?

Sometimes it may not be possible to procure accessible goods, services or facilities. For example, an accessible computer program is not available.

If you can't incorporate accessibility into a purchase you must, when asked:

- explain why you did not obtain accessible goods, services or facilities, and
- provide the explanation in an accessible format.

Want more detailed information?

[Read our policy guidelines](#)

[Read the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation 191/11](#)

[Read Making your purchases more accessible](#)