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Do the Right Thing *Ahead of Disability Pride Month, it's time for the building industry to get serious about accessibility*

May 30, 2024—Disability Pride Month is coming in July. As it approaches, this is a good time for building stakeholders – building owners, facility managers, architects, contractors, and the public – to think about how they can improve accessibility for the millions of people who use their facilities.

The [American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers \(AAADM\)](#) has a message for these stakeholders: Do the right thing. If your facilities need upgrades to make them more accessible, get them done. Consider it an investment that will pay huge dividends by literally opening doors to new customers, patrons, and clients.



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in July 1990. That same year, Boston held the first Disability Pride Day. In 2015, to mark the 25th anniversary of this groundbreaking legislation, the first Disability Pride Month was observed and has been recognized in each subsequent July. It is an opportunity to honor the history, experiences, struggles, and achievements of the differently abled.

The ADA is no doubt landmark legislation; unfortunately, it does not require automatic doors at the entrances to public buildings. This incredible oversight is somewhat offset by [IBC \(International Building Code\) 1105.1.1](#), a hard-fought provision long sought by accessibility advocates and AAADM that includes automatic doors for entrances to public buildings that meet certain building occupant load thresholds.

But, the fact remains, too many public buildings are still difficult or impossible for people with mobility limitations to access. Upgrades such as ramps, wider doorways, and automatic doors help disabled patrons easily and independently visit, make purchases, and use services.

The American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers has long been an ally in the fight to make public buildings accessible to all. For more information about AAADM, visit <https://www.aaadm.com/>.

About AAADM

The American Association of Automatic Door Manufacturers (AAADM) is a trade association of manufacturers of automatic pedestrian door systems. AAADM was founded in 1994 with the following mission: to increase awareness of automatic doors and accessibility needs; to increase education, training, and professionalism among installers and service providers; and to generally promote the safe use of automatic doors. Each year on March 19, AAADM celebrates National Automatic Door Day to raise awareness about the many benefits of automatic doors, including providing access to those with physical challenges and helping to prevent germs by eliminating the

need to touch door handles. www.aaadm.com.

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