



ADA COMPLIANCE

What are the ADA Standards?

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a wide-ranging civil rights law that ensures individuals with disabilities are able to fully access and use public places and services. As such, the ADA contains standards for public places, buildings, and services, including drinking water fountains and water coolers.

How is a Water Cooler ADA Compliant?

Under the ADA, a drinking water cooler must comply with specific regulations as outlined in the ADA Standards for Accessible Design, including:

- ◆ **Water spouts** may not be any higher than 36 inches (915 mm) from the floor and must be located in the front of the water cooler.
- ◆ **Water flow** must run parallel or nearly parallel to the front of the cooler and be at least 4 inches (100 mm) in length to allow the user to insert a cup or glass.
- ◆ **The controls** must be on the front of the unit; be within 15 inches (380 mm) and 48 inches (1,220 mm) or 9 inches (230 mm) and 54 inches (1,370 mm) of the floor for an individual in a wheelchair to approach the water cooler either from the front (forward approach) or from the side (parallel approach).
- ◆ **The floor space** in front of the water cooler must be clear by at least 30 inches by 48 inches (760 mm by 1220 mm) to allow for a forward or parallel approach.

For more specific information about ADA compliance for water coolers, please see Section 602 of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Are Quench Machines ADA Compliant?

Quench has several water coolers and ice dispensers that are ADA compliant as long as they are installed with the proper open space in front of the cooler:

Water Coolers

- ◆ Q7 FS ◆ 810 ◆ 715 ◆ 710
- ◆ Q5 FS ◆ 720 ◆ 718

Ice Dispensers

- ◆ 970 ◆ 978 ◆ 992
- ◆ 970-15 ◆ 979

The counter-top water coolers and ice dispensers, including the Q7 CT, Q5 CT, 975, 975-15, and 525, are ADA compliant as long as they are installed on a surface that does not bring the control height above 54 inches total from the floor. For more information about our ADA compliant water coolers and ice dispensers, please speak with a Quench water expert.

If an organization has an alternative system to provide individuals with disabilities access to drinking water, then an ADA compliant water cooler is not required. However if an individual with disability requests an ADA compliant water cooler, then the organization is obligated to provide one. For more information on ADA compliance requirements, please refer to Section 6 of the ADA Standard for Accessible Design.

For more information about the ADA, please visit www.ADA.gov. For answers surrounding specific questions, please call the toll-free ADA Information Line at 800.514.0301 (Voice) or 800.514.0383 (TTY).

