

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 outlines in the ADA Standards for Accessible Design, including:

- **The controls** must be on the front of the unit and be within 15 inches (380 mm) and 48 inches (1,220 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 1,220 mm) to allow for a forward or parallel approach.

Are Culligan Quench Machines ADA Compliant?

Culligan 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		Ice Dispensers	
✓ Q4 FS	✓ Q12	✓ 960	✓ 980 Series
✓ Q5 FS	✓ Q14	✓ 960-16	✓ 992
✓ Q8 FS		✓ 978/979	

Countertop machines, including the Q8 CT, Q5 CT, 965, 965-16, and 985 series can be compliant as long as they are installed on a surface that does not bring the control height above 48" total from the floor.

Please Visit
www.ADA.gov
to Learn About
ADA Compliance.

For more information about ADA compliance for water coolers, please see Section 6 of the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

For answers surrounding specific questions, please call the toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (Voice) or 800-514-0383 (TTY)



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 a disability requests an ADA compliant water cooler, then the organization is obligated to provide one.