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## Newsletter for Clarification of TAS 203.9: Raised area under 300 Sq. Ft.



Providing excellent and knowledge of the TAS Standards.

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**203.9 Employee Work Areas.** Spaces and elements within employee work areas shall only be required to comply with 206.2.8, 207.1, and 215.3 and shall be designed and constructed so that individuals with disabilities can approach, enter, and exit the employee work area. Employee work areas, or portions of employee work areas, other than raised courtroom stations, **that are less than 300 square feet (28 m2) and elevated 7 inches (180 mm) or more above the finish floor or ground where the elevation is essential to the function of the space shall not** be required to comply with these requirements or to be on an accessible route.

Question: Can you have an employee work area that is under 300 Sq. Ft. **without** providing an accessible route?

Answer: **Yes.** An employee work area, whether it is an observation area or a media room for videoing lectures or assemblies, has an exception NOT to have to have an accessible route up to this area.

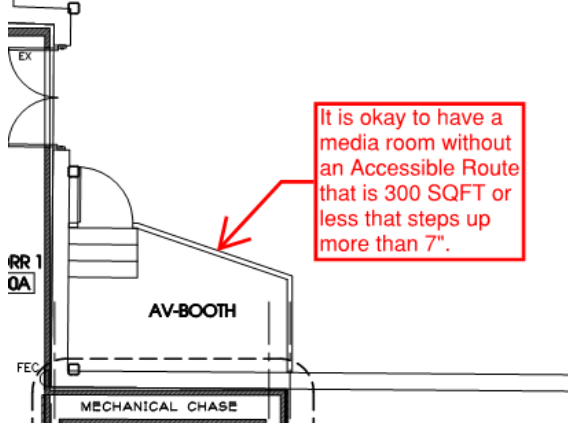
The key words are "if" this raised area "room" is **essential to the function of the space.**

Per the TAS Standards this raised area needs to be raised at least 7" or more. Why 7" or more? Sometimes we do not always know why the standards get written with the restrictions that they do, but I could guess that if the rise is 0" to 7", that may not be enough of a raised area to change the essential function of the room. Also, if it is under the 7" then TAS/ADA may want you to make it accessible by a ramp or just set it back down at the existing floor level.

Question: How far can this 300 Sq. Ft. area be raised of the main floor?

Answer: TAS/ADA Standards does not set a requirement of the height as long it is 7" or more.

We often see this in auditoriums or sometimes areas of worship. In AV-booths or media rooms it is sometimes common to have a raised floor for the equipment.



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Comments for discussion are always welcome- E mail to, [TasByJeff@gmail.com](mailto:TasByJeff@gmail.com)

Jeff Gutknecht is a Register Accessibility Specialist # 00000472 with 22 years of experience and knowledge in the construction field and accessibility services to assist your company in all related TAS, ADAAG and Fair Housing compliance work. We are one of the Top RAS companies with a different and unique plan review method with clear and concise explanations of area of deficiencies with the plans. All plans can be sent by **PDF** and we will use Bluebeam to mark-up and review all areas for compliance. We enjoy traveling to all locations to cover any of your jobs.

**Thank You** Jeff Gutknecht, RAS #472 See more at [www.TexasAccessibilitySpecialist.com](http://www.TexasAccessibilitySpecialist.com)