AODA – Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) Customer Service Standards Policy

*(Note: This policy has been updated to reflect the July 1, 2018, changes to the regulations under Ontario’s Health Protection and Promotion Act.)*

Intent

All goods and services provided by Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will follow the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity.

This policy meets the requirements of the customer service standards included in the *Integrated Accessibility Standards* *Regulation* under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.* It applies to the provision of goods and services to the public or other third parties, not to the goods themselves.

Definitions

Assistive device: A technical aid, communication device, or other instrument that is used to maintain or improve the functional abilities of people with disabilities. Personal assistive devices are typically devices that customers bring with them, such as a wheelchair, walker, or a personal oxygen tank, and that might assist in hearing, seeing, communicating, moving, breathing, remembering, or reading.

Disability: As defined by the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, and the Ontario *Human Rights Code*, refers to*:*

* Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation, or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect, or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, a brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device;
* A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability;
* A learning disability, or dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language;
* A mental disorder; or
* An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997*.

Guide dog: A highly trained working dog that has been trained at one of the facilities listed in Ontario Regulation 58 under the *Blind Persons’* *Rights Act*, to provide mobility, safety, and increased independence for people who are blind.

Service animal: A service animal for a person with a disability if:

1. The animal can be readily identified as one that is being used by the person for reasons relating to the person’s disability, as a result of visual indicators such as the vest or harness worn by the animal; or
2. The person provides documentation from a member of one of the following regulated health professional colleges confirming that the person requires the animal for reasons relating to the disability:
	* College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario;
	* College of Chiropractors of Ontario;
	* College of Nurses of Ontario;
	* College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario;
	* College of Optometrists of Ontario;
	* College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario;
	* College of Physiotherapists of Ontario;
	* College of Psychologists of Ontario; or
	* College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario.

Support person: In relation to a person with a disability, another person who accompanies them in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care, medical needs, or access to goods and services.

Guidelines

**The Provision of Goods and Services to Persons with Disabilities**

Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will make every reasonable effort to ensure that its policies, practices, and procedures are consistent with the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity by:

* Ensuring that all customers receive the same value and quality;
* Allowing customers with disabilities to do things in their own ways, at their own pace when accessing goods and services, as long as this does not present a health and safety risk;
* Using alternative methods when possible to ensure that customers with disabilities have access to the same services, in the same place and in a similar manner;
* Taking into account individual accommodation needs when providing goods and services; and
* Communicating in a manner that takes into account the customer’s disability.

**The Use of Assistive Devices**

Customer’s Own Assistive Devices

Persons with disabilities may use their own assistive devices as required when accessing goods or services provided by the company.

In cases where the assistive device presents a health and safety concern or where accessibility might be an issue, other reasonable measures will be used to ensure the access of goods and services, up to the point of undue hardship.

For example, open flames and oxygen tanks cannot be near one another. Therefore, the accommodation of a customer with an oxygen tank might involve ensuring the customer is in a location that would be considered safe for both the customer and business.

Alternatively, where elevators are not present and where a customer requires assistive devices for the purposes of mobility, service will be provided in a location that meets the needs of the customer.

**Guide Dogs and Service Animals**

A customer with a disability who is accompanied by a guide dog or service animal will be allowed access to premises that are open to the public unless otherwise excluded by law. “No pet” policies do not apply to guide dogs or service animals.

Staff may respectfully ask if an animal is a service animal and will not ask the nature of the person’s disability or purpose of the animal.

Food Service Areas

A customer with a disability who is accompanied by guide dog or service animal will be allowed access to food service areas that are open to the public unless otherwise excluded by law.

Other types of service animals are only permitted into areas where food is served, sold, or offered for sale due to the *Health Protection and Promotion* *Act*, Ontario Regulation 493/17.

Exclusion Guidelines

If a customer’s guide dog or service animal is excluded by law (see applicable laws below), Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will offer alternative methods to enable the person with a disability to access goods and services, when possible. For example, the company might accommodate a customer’s disability by securing the animal in a safe location and offering the assistance of an employee to facilitate the delivery of goods and services.

Applicable Laws

*Food Safety and Quality Act,* *2001*, Ontario Regulation 31/05: Animals not intended for slaughter or to be euthanized are not allowed in any area or room of a meat plant. An exception is made for service dogs to allow them in those areas of a meat plant where food is served, sold, or offered for sale to customers and in those areas that do not contain animals or animal parts and are not used for the receiving, processing, packaging, labelling, shipping, handling, or storing of animals or parts of animals.

*Dog Owners’* *Liability Act, 2005*: If there is a conflict between a provision of this legislation or of a regulation under this or any other act relating to banned breeds (such as pit bulls) and a provision of a by-law passed by a municipality relating to these breeds, the provision that is more restrictive in relation to controls or bans on these breeds prevails. Staff will respectfully explain that the service animal must be removed from the public area due to a municipal by-law and make alternate arrangements or provide the service outside the public area.

Recognizing a Guide Dog or Service Animal:

If it is not readily apparent that the animal is being used by the customer for reasons relating to their disability, Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. may request verification from the customer.

Care and Control of the Animal:

The customer who is accompanied by a guide dog or service animal is responsible for maintaining care and control of the animal at all times.

Allergies and Other Health and Safety Concerns

If a health and safety concern presents itself, for example, in the form of a severe allergy to the animal, Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will make all reasonable efforts to meet the needs of all individuals. Pursuant to the company’s obligations under the *Human Rights Code* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, each customer’s accommodation needs will be considered on a case-by-case basis, up to the point of undue hardship.

Due diligence needs to be paid to address health and safety requirements. For example, if a person’s health and safety could be seriously affected by the presence of a service animal on the premises open to the public, management must fully analyse all options for safely accommodating the service animal. Options could include creating distance between the two individuals to eliminate in-person contact, changing the time the two individuals receive service, or using air purifiers and other measures that could allow the person to use their service animal on the premises.

In very exceptional circumstances where a service animal becomes out of control, causing a clear disruption or a threat to the health and safety of others, and the animal’s behaviour is not corrected by the owner, a person with a disability can be asked to remove their service animal from the premises.

As a courtesy, particularly if the person and service animal have been in attendance on the premises for a long time, staff may ask whether the animal requires water, may designate an area in which the service animal can relieve itself, or ask whether the staff can be of assistance pertaining to the service animal.

**The Use of Support Persons**

If a customer with a disability is accompanied by a support person, Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will ensure that both persons may enter the areas of the premises that are open to the public together and that the customer is not prevented from having access to the support person.

There may be times where seating and availability prevent the customer and support person from sitting beside each other. In these situations, the company will make every reasonable attempt to resolve the issue.

In situations where confidential information might be discussed, consent will be obtained from the customer before any potentially confidential information is mentioned.

Admission Fees

Where the company requires a support person to accompany a person with a disability, and where the person with a disability has agreed to the accompaniment, the company will not charge the support person any fees or fares.

**Notice of Disruptions in Service**

Service disruptions may occur for reasons that may or may not be within the control or knowledge of Lorenz Conveying Products Corp.. In the event of any temporary disruptions to facilities or services that customers with disabilities rely on to access or use goods or services, reasonable efforts will be made to provide advance notice. In some circumstances, such as in the situation of unplanned temporary disruptions, advance notice may not be possible.

If a notification needs to be posted, the following information will be included unless it is not readily available or known:

* Goods or services that are disrupted or unavailable;
* Reason for the disruption;
* Anticipated duration; and
* A description of alternative services or options if any
* Contact information

Notification Options

When disruptions occur, Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will provide notice by:

* Posting notices of temporary disruption on the door of the main entrance to LCP premises, including at the point of disruption, and the nearest accessible entrance to the service disruption, and on the company website;
* Contacting customers with appointments; or
* By any other method that may be reasonable under the circumstances.

**Customer Feedback**

Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. shall provide customers with the opportunity to provide feedback on the service provided to customers with disabilities. Information about the feedback process will be readily available to all customers and notice of the process will be made available by (website, e-mail, in person, mail, delivered, text message, by posting the information in a conspicuous place owned and operated by Lorenz Conveying Products Corp.,. Feedback forms, along with alternate methods of providing feedback verbally (in person or by telephone) or written (handwritten, delivered, website, or e-mail), will be available upon request.

Submitting Feedback

Customers can submit feedback to:

Alyson McCullough
905-372-2240 ext 229
P.O. Box 1002 Cobourg, ON Canada K9A 4W4

AMcCullough@lorenz.ca

LCP will respond within 20 business days to customers who provide formal feedback, either in writing, in person, by email or by telephone acknowledging the receipt of feedback and outlining the actions to be taken.

All feedback received regarding the way in which LCP provides goods and services to people with disabilities will be directed to LCP’s Human Resources Department. A record will be maintained outlining the details, follow-up and actions to be taken based on the concerns or complaints that were submitted.

**Training**

Training will be provided to:

* Every employee of or a volunteer with Lorenz Conveying Products Corp.;
* Every person who participates in developing the policies of Lorenz Conveying Products Corp.; and
* Every other person who provides goods, services, or facilities on behalf of Lorenz Conveying Products Corp..

Training Provisions

Regardless of the format, training will cover the following:

* A review of the purpose of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*;
* A review of the requirements of the customer service standards;
* Instructions on how to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities;
* Instructions on how to interact with people with disabilities who:
	+ Use assistive devices;
	+ Require the assistance of a guide dog or other service animal; or
	+ Require the use of a support person (including the handling of admission fees);
* Instructions on how to use equipment or devices that are available at our premises or that we provide that may help people with disabilities;
* Instructions on what to do if a person with a disability is having difficulty accessing our services; and
* Policies, procedures, and practices of the company pertaining to providing accessible customer service to customers with disabilities.

Training Schedule

Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will provide training as soon as practicable. Training will be provided to new employees, volunteers, agents, and contractors during orientation. Revised training will be provided in the event of changes to legislation, procedures, policies, or practices.

Record of Training

Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. will keep a record of training that includes the dates training was provided and the number of employees who attended the training.

**Notice of Availability and Format of Documents to Customers**

Lorenz Conveying Products Corp. shall notify customers that the documents related to the customer service standards are available upon request and in a format that takes into account the customer’s disability.

LCP is committed to providing accessible information and communications to all of our clients and recognizes that people with disabilities often use methods other than standard print to access information. LCP will provide publicly-available correspondence, reports, and other documents in an alternative format

Notification will be given by posting the information in a conspicuous place owned and operated by Lorenz Conveying Products Corp., the website of Lorenz Conveying Products Corp., and any other reasonable method.

Alternative Format Documents

LCP strives to provide information in a format accessible to all people. Complete a request form available by contacting LCP at 905-372-2240 ext. 229 or by email @ AMcCullough@lorenz.ca

Types of alternative formats available

1. Large Print or Braille translations
2. Hard copy or email
3. LCP will train staff on how to communicate and interact with people with disabilities. We will train our staff who deal with the public to communicate with disabled clients over the telephone in clear language and to speak clearly and slowly.

If LCP staff need to communicate by telephone with a customer who is Deaf, deafened or hard or hearing, the client can use the Bell Canada Relay Service. The number for the Relay Service is 1-800-855-0511

Normally clients will contact the Relay Service and the Bell operator will redirect their call to LCP phone #’s. Additional information about eh service is available by contacting Bell Canada at 1-800-268-9242 or at the following website:

<http://www.bell.ca/specialneeds.PrsSN_SvcRelay.page>

Alternative formats will be provided within a reasonable time frame or LCP will provide an explanation for the delay if the time frame is longer than twenty (20) business days.

**Administration**

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy or its related procedures, please contact:

Alyson McCullough – Human Resources Administrator
905-372-2240 ext. 229
P.O. Box 1002 Cobourg, ON Canada K9A 4W4
AMcCullough@lorenz.ca

This policy and its related procedures will be reviewed as required in the event of legislative changes or changes to company procedures.