

of not less than 1.25 (32.5mm) inches between the wall and the handrails.

Graspable portions of the handrail may not end up completely continuous from the top riser to the bottom riser. The rail shall return to the wall.

Exceptions:

- (1) Handrails shall be permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at the turn.
- (2) The use of a volute, turnout or starting easing, or starting newel shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

Sec. 2.4.300. - Handrail grip size.

Section R311.7.8.3 of the International Residential Code is amended to read as follows:

R311.7.8.3 Handrail grip size. All required handrails shall be of one of the following types or provide equivalent graspability.

1. Type I. Handrails with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of at least 1¼ inches (32 mm) and not greater than 2 inches (51 mm). If the handrail is not circular it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4 inches (102 mm) and not greater than 6¼ inches (160 mm) with a maximum cross section of dimension of 2¼ inches (57 mm).
2. Type II. Handrails with a perimeter greater than 6¼ inches (160 mm) shall provide a graspable finger recess area on the outboard side of the profile. The finger recess shall begin within a distance of ¾ inch (19 mm) measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of at least 5/16 inch (8 mm) within 7/8 inch (22 mm) below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for at least 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) to a level that is not less than 1¾ inches (45 mm) below the tallest portion of the profile. The minimum width of the handrail above the recess shall be 1¼ inches (32 mm) to a maximum of 2¾ inches (70 mm). Edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.01 inch (0.25 mm).

Sec. 2.4.310. - Guard opening limitations.

Section R312.1.3 of the International Residential Code is amended to read as follows:

R312.1.3 ~~Guard~~ Opening limitations. Required guards on open sides of stairways, raised floor areas, balconies and porches shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures which do not allow passage of a sphere 4 ½ inches (114.3 mm) or more in diameter. ~~Required guards shall not be constructed with horizontal rails or other ornamental pattern that results in a ladder effect.~~

Exception:

1. The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard at the open side of a stairway are permitted to be of such a size that a sphere 6 inches (152 mm) cannot pass through.
2. Openings for required guards on the sides of stair treads shall not allow sphere 4 ½ inches (114.3 mm) to pass through.