

CTC Area of study – Climbable Guards

2007/2008 Code Changes

Proponent: CTC

PART I – IBC

SECTION 1013.0 GUARDS

1013.1 (SUPP) Where required. Guards shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, including mezzanines, equipment platforms, stairways, stairs, ramps and landings, that are located more than 30 inches measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side above the floor or grade below. Guards shall be adequate in strength and attachment in accordance with Section 1607.7. ~~Where glass is used to provide a guard or as a portion of the guard system, the guard shall also comply with Section 2407. Guards shall also be located along glazed sides of stairways, ramps and landings that are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below where the glazing provided does not meet the strength and attachment requirements in Section 1607.7.~~

Exception: Guards are not required for the following locations:

1. On the loading side of loading docks or piers.
2. On the audience side of stages and raised platforms, including steps leading up to the stage and raised platforms.
3. On raised stage and platform floor areas such as runways, ramps and side stages used for entertainment or presentations.
4. At vertical openings in the performance area of stages and platforms.
5. At elevated walking surfaces appurtenant to stages and platforms for access to and utilization of special lighting or equipment.
6. Along vehicle service pits not accessible to the public.
7. In assembly seating where guards in accordance with Section 1025.14 are permitted and provided.

1013.1.1 Glazing. Where glass is used to provide a guard or as a portion of the guard system, the guard shall also comply with Section 2407. Where the glazing provided does not meet the strength and attachment requirements in Section 1607.7, complying guards shall also be located along glazed sides of open-sided walking surfaces.

1013.2 Height. Guards shall form a protective barrier not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) high, measured vertically above the adjacent walking surfaces, adjacent fixed seating or the line connecting the leading edge edges of the tread-treads, adjacent walking surface or adjacent seatboard.

Exceptions:

1. For occupancies in Group R-3, and within individual dwelling units in occupancies in Group R-2, ~~guards whose top rail also serves as a handrail shall have a height not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm) measured vertically from the leading edge of the stair tread nosing.~~ guards on the open sides of stairs shall have a height not less than 34 inches (864 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.
2. For occupancies in Group R-3, and within individual dwelling units in occupancies in Group R-2, where the top of the guard also serves as a handrail on the open sides of stairs, the top of the guard shall not be less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.
2. 3. The height in assembly seating areas shall be in accordance with Section 1024.14.
- 3-4. Show number 4 unchanged from suppp.

1013.3 (SUPP) Opening limitations. ~~Open Guards shall have balusters or ornamental patterns such that a~~ not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 4-inch-inches (102 mm) sphere in diameter from the walking surface to the required guard height cannot pass through any opening up to a height of 34 inches (864 mm). From a height of 34 inches (864 mm) to 42 inches (1067 mm) above the adjacent walking surfaces, a sphere 8 inches (203 mm) in diameter shall not pass.

Exceptions:

1. From a height of 36 inches (914 mm) to 42 inches (1067 mm), guards shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 4.375 inches (111 mm) in diameter.
- ~~1. 2. The triangular openings at the open sides of a stair, formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail, at the open side of a stairway shall be of a maximum size such that a sphere of 6 inches (152 mm) in diameter cannot pass through the opening. not allow passage of a sphere 6 inches (152 mm) in diameter.~~
- ~~2. 3. At elevated walking surfaces for access to and use of electrical, mechanical or plumbing systems or equipment, guards shall have balusters or be of solid materials such that a sphere with a diameter of 21 inches (533 mm) cannot pass through any opening. not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter.~~
- ~~3. 4. In areas which are not open to the public within occupancies in Group I-3, F, H or S, and for alternating tread devices balusters, horizontal intermediate rails or other construction shall not permit a sphere with a diameter of 21 inches (533 mm) to pass through any opening. guards shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 21 inches (533 mm) in diameter.~~
4. 5. In assembly seating areas, guards at the end of aisles where they terminate at a fascia of boxes, balconies and galleries shall have balusters or ornamental patterns such that a sphere 4 inch inches (102mm) in diameter sphere cannot pass through any opening up to a height of 26 inches (660 mm). From a height of 26 inches (660 mm) to 42 inches (1067 mm) above the adjacent walking surfaces, guards shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 8 inches (203 mm) in diameter shall not pass.
- ~~5. 6. Within individual dwelling units and sleeping units in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies, openings for required guards on the sides of stair treads shall not allow a sphere of 4.375 inches (111 mm) to pass through. guards on the open sides of stairs shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 4.375 (111 mm) inches in diameter.~~

1013.4. Screen porches. (No change to current text)

1013.5 Mechanical equipment. Guards shall be provided where appliances, equipment, fans, roof hatch openings or other components that require service are located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of a roof edge or open side of a walking surface and such edge or open side is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor, roof or grade below. The guard shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a sphere 21 inch inches (533 mm) in diameter sphere. The guard shall extend not less than 30 inches (762 mm) beyond each end of such appliance, equipment, fan or component.

1013.6 Roof access. Guards shall be provided where the roof hatch opening is located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of a roof edge or open side of a walking surface and such edge or open side is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor, roof or grade below. The guard shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a sphere 21 inch inches (533 mm) in diameter sphere.

Reason: The ICC Board established the ICC Code Technology Committee (CTC) as the venue to discuss contemporary code issues in a committee setting which provides the necessary time and flexibility to allow for full participation and input by any interested party. The code issues are assigned to the CTC by the ICC Board as “areas of study”. Information on the CTC, including: meeting agendas; minutes; reports; resource documents; presentations; and all other materials developed in conjunction with the CTC effort can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/cc/ctc/index.html>. Since its inception in April/2005, the CTC has held twelve meetings - all open to the public.

This proposed change is a result of the CTC’s investigation of the area of study entitled “Climbable Guards”. The scope of the activity is noted as:

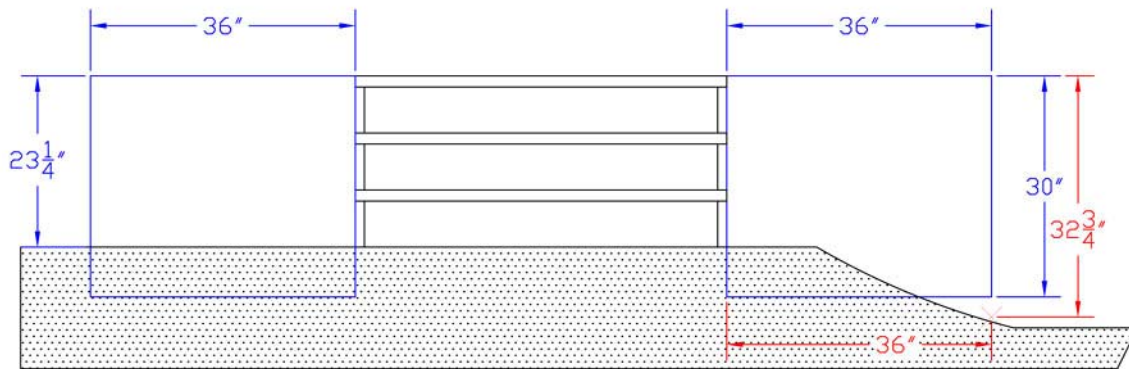
The study of climbable guards will focus on determining the need for appropriate measures to prevent or inhibit an individual from utilizing the elements of a guard system, including rails, balusters and ornamental patterns, to climb the guard, thereby subjecting that person to the falling hazard which the guard system is intended to prevent.

This proposal is a follow-up to E96 – 06/07. As of this writing this area of study has been completed by the CTC relative to these proposals. The general focus of these two proposals, one to the IBC and one to the IRC, is to create consistency in language regulating guards in the two codes.

Part I – IBC

IBC 1013.1. Laundry lists of items in the code are typically not all-inclusive. The word “including” provides this clarification in the following sections as well. This section is divided into two paragraphs with the second paragraph dealing with glass and glazing without a change in intent.

The key part of this change to IBC 1013.1 is submitted in order to clarify how the height measurement which triggers the guard requirement is made relative to proximity to the adjacent fall-off. This is illustrated in the following figure:



The view is taken from the landing of a 3 riser stair, looking towards the face of the risers.



IBC 1013.2: The technical portion of this change is the change which identifies that a fixed seat becomes a potential walking surface to a child and thus warrants the guard height to be measured from that point. The remainder does not change the intent but rather provides standardized text dealing with stair treads and the determination of how to measure guard height. This code change revises the term to “fixed seating” so as to clarify the measurement, using common terminology. Fixed seating represents a walking surface which is sure to be utilized by children. As such, the measurement of the guard must be taken from this location to address the hazard of a child falling over the guard. It is impossible for the code to regulate ornamentals such as planters, furniture and the like and this proposal does not intend to regulate them

IBC 1013.3: In the disapproval of E96-06/07, committee notes that they feel that exceptions 1 and 2 are redundant. A careful reading of the text revisions reveals a subtle difference. Exception 1 is a general exception for guard height along stairs. Exception 2 addresses the guard height where the top of the guard serves as a handrail. This distinction is intended to provide clarification in the code for the two possible scenarios.

The majority of the revision in this section and exception involve editorial rewording of the sentences for clarity and consistency. The technical change is to reduce the maximum opening (8” to 4-3/8” inches) for this upper portion of the guard above 36 inches. The 8 inch limitation on openings at the upper section of the guard was based on the difference between the 34 inch height being the part of the guard that protects small children and the 42 inch height for the rest of the population. However this does not take into account that residential R-3 use groups require a minimum guard height of 36 inches. Proposed

exception 1 raises the height for which the 4 inch opening requirement is applicable - to coincide with the minimum guard height of 36 inches in residential occupancies.

The change in maximum opening size at the upper portion of the guard, from the current 8 inch sphere criteria to a 4-3/8 inch sphere, is based on providing an equivalent level of protection as that provided by the current 4 inch opening on the lower portion of the guard. As a point of reference, the following measurements of head sizes of infants are excerpted from Drawing #2 Measurement of Infants from a book entitled "The Measure of Man and Woman: Human Factors" by Alvin R. Tilley, first published by Whitney Library of Design in 1993, republished and copyrighted by John Wiley & Sons, New York (ISBN 0-471-09955-4) in 2002.

The publication states "We have chosen to accommodate 98% of the U.S. population, which lies between the 99 percentile and the 1 percentile, for product designs for civilians" page 10-11 headlined percentiles.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Side-to-side measurement</u>	<u>Back-to-front measurement</u>
12-15 months:	5"	6.5"
16-19 months:	5"	6.5"
20-23 months:	5.1"	6.8"

Additional point of reference, from the same book entitled "The Measure of Man and Woman: Human Factors" by Alvin R. Tilley, figure number 8, page 14, showing child age 2.5 – 3 years. The chest dimension when scaled (1" = 12") shows a 4-3/4" dimension from the back to the front.

The following information from various resources has been compiled to illustrate how countries outside of the US are regulating the openings in guards:

Country of Origin	Sphere Rule Metric	Sphere Rule Inches
Canada	100mm	3.94"
United Kingdom	100mm	3.94"
United States	102mm	4"
Australia	125mm	4.92"
Germany	120mm	4.72"
France	110mm	4.33"
Mexico (no code – standard followed)	102mm – 152mm	4" – 6"
Russia	100mm	3.94"
Romania	100mm	3.94"
Trinidad & Tobago	102mm	4"
Japan (Confirmation Pending)	125mm	4.92"
Spain (Confirmation Pending)	(120mm) (125mm)	(4.72") (4.92")
Switzerland	120mm	4.72"
Sweden	100mm	3.94"
Taiwan (Confirmation Pending)	125mm	4.92"
Singapore (Confirmation Pending)	125mm	4.92"
Poland (Confirmation Pending)	100mm	3.94"
Turkey	100 mm	3.94"
Netherlands (Confirmation Pending)	100mm	3.94"

PART II – IRC

**SECTION R312
GUARDS**

R312.1 Where Guards required. ~~Guards shall be provided on all decks, landings, porches, balconies, ramps or raised floor surfaces located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below. Required guards shall not be less than 36 inches in height. Open sides of stairs with a total rise of more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below shall have guards not less than 34 inches (864 mm) in height measured vertically from the nosing of the treads. Guards shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, ramps and landings, that are located more than 30 inches measured vertically to the floor or grade below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side. Insect screening shall not be considered as a guard.~~

~~Porches and decks which are enclosed with insect screening shall be equipped with guards where the walking surface is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below.~~

R312.2 Height. Guards at open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, porches, balconies or landings, shall be not less than 36 inches (914 mm) high measured vertically above the adjacent walking surface, adjacent fixed seating or the line connecting the leading edges of the treads.

Exceptions:

1. Guards on the open sides of stairs shall have a height not less than 34 inches (864 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.
2. Where the top of the guard also serves as a handrail on the open sides of stairs, the top of the guard shall not be not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.

R312.2 R312.3 Guard Opening limitations. Required Guards on open sides of stairways, raised floor areas, balconies and porches shall not have openings intermediate rails or ornamental closures which do not allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) or more in diameter from the walking surface to the required guard height.

Exceptions:

1. The triangular openings at the open side of a stair, formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a guard, at the open side of a stairway shall are permitted to be of such a size that a sphere 6 inches cannot pass through. not allow passage of a sphere 6 inches (153 mm) in diameter.
2. Openings for required guards on the open sides of stair treads stairs shall not allow passage of a sphere 43/8 inches or more in diameter to pass through Guards on the open sides of stairs shall not have openings which allow passage of a sphere 4.375 inches (111 mm) in diameter

Part II – IRC

IRC R312.1: This section is being divided into two sections, similar to the IBC. The first section includes the general guard requirement, and the new section (R312.2) includes the height requirements. See reason for IBC Section 1013.1.

IRC R312.2: This new section includes the guard height requirements. It is reformatted to place emphasis on the 36” high guard required at level surfaces. There are not technical changes to the minimum height. This code change uses the term “fixed seating” so as to clarify the measurement, using common terminology. Fixed seating represents a walking surface which is sure to be utilized by children. As such, the measurement of the guard must be taken from this location to address the hazard of a child falling over the guard. It is impossible for the code to regulate ornamentals such as planters, furniture and the like and this proposal does not intend to regulate them. See reason for IBC Section 1013.2.

IRC R312.3: The majority of the revision in this section and exception involve editorial rewording of the sentences for clarity and consistency.