

CTC Meeting # 22
December 1 – 2, 2011
Climbable Guards SG report

1013.3 Height. Required guards shall not be less than 42 inches (1067 mm) high, measured vertically as follows:

1. From the adjacent walking surfaces,
2. On the line connecting the leading edges of the tread nosings, and
3. On ramps from the ramp surface at the guard.
4. From a seatboard where a guard would be required at the walking surface and the seatboard is part of the guard or adjacent to the guard.

Exceptions:

1. For one- and two- family dwelling and townhouses in Group R-2 and R-3, For occupancies in Group R-3 not more than three stories above grade in height and required guards within individual dwelling units and in areas serving the dwelling unit in occupancies in Group R-2 not more than three stories above grade in height with separate means of egress, required guards guard height shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height measured vertically above the adjacent walking surfaces or fixed seating seatboard.
2. For Group R-2 and R-3 units, required guards within the dwelling unit shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height measured vertically above the adjacent walking surface or seatboard.
3. For occupancies in Group R-3, and within individual dwelling units in occupancies in Group R-2, 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.
4. 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.
5. The guard height in assembly seating areas shall comply with Section 1028.14.
6. Along alternating tread devices and ship ladders, guards whose top rail also serves as a handrail, shall have height not less than 30 inches (762 mm) and not more than 34 inches (864 mm), measured vertically from the leading edge of the device tread nosing.

Reason: The purpose of this change is to require higher guards when a fixed bench is part of or immediately adjacent to a guard. The concern is child safety for when children stand on a seat and

possibly tip over the guard. The reference back to the floor surface in new Item 4 is to clarify where the measurement for the drop-off for where a guard is required is different from the measurement for the guard height.

The changes to Exception 1 is to coordinate better with IRC. The guard height is permitted to be 36" both inside and outside the individual dwelling unit. Where a balcony or deck had a bench constructed as part of the guard, the guard height above the bench would be 36".

New exception 2 is to allow a 36" high guard along an interior balcony or mezzanine within a Group R-2 multi-story apartment. This would allow guards and handrails along stairways (current exceptions 2 and 3) to not have a large change in elevation at the top landing to meet up with the guard. For these buildings, if there is an exterior balcony for a unit, the guard height would be 42" minimum. That would include measurement from a bench if it was constructed as part of the guard.

The intent of this proposal is to coordinate with the proposal for perimeter guards along assembly seating being proposed by the ICC 300 Bleacher Safety Committee. It is not the intent for these provisions to apply to fixed assembly seating arrangements. These types of facilities have issues of line-of-sight, requirements for handrails and guards along aisle that are stepped, ramped or level, crowd issues, etc. that are more appropriately handled in Section 1028.

Note: This would be in coordination with the provisions for assembly seating proposed by the ICC 300 committee.