



Code Information Sheet

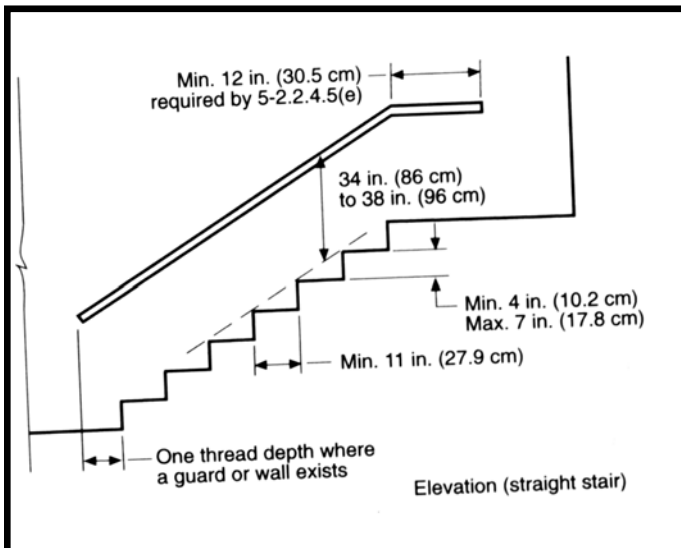
REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDRAILS

Stairs and ramps shall have handrails on both sides, If a single step or a ramp is part of a curb that separates a sidewalk from a vehicular way, it shall not be required to have a handrail. [**NFPA 101 SEC 7.2.2.4**]

Existing stairs, existing ramps, stairs within dwelling units and within guest rooms, and ramps within dwelling units and guest rooms shall be permitted to have a handrail on one side only.

Handrail Details. [NFPA 101 SEC 7.2.2.4.4]

New handrails on stairs shall be not less than **34 in.** and not more than **38 in.** above the surface of the tread, measured vertically to the top of the rail from the leading edge of the tread.



Existing required handrails shall be not less than **30 in.** and not more than **38 in.** above the surface of the tread, measured vertically to the top of the rail from the leading edge of the tread.

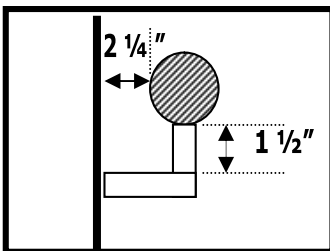
The height of required handrails that form part of a guard shall be permitted to exceed **38 in.**, but shall not exceed **42 in.**, measured vertically to the top of the rail from the leading edge of the tread.

Additional handrails that are lower or higher than the main handrail shall be permitted.

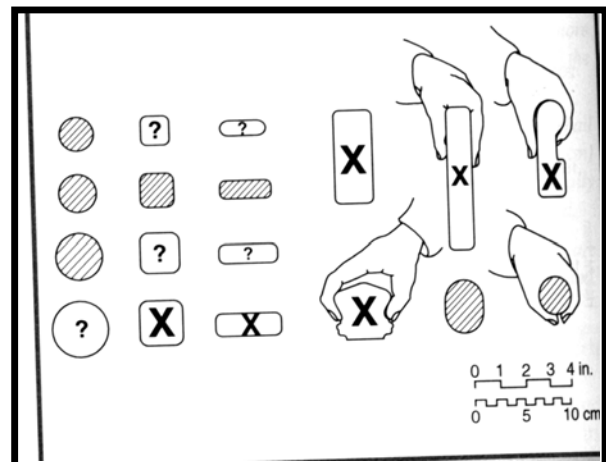
Required guards and handrails shall continue for the full length of each flight of stairs. At turns of new stairs, inside handrails shall be continuous between flights at landings. New handrail ends shall be returned to the wall or floor or shall terminate at newel posts.

Handrails shall include one of the following features:

- (1) A circular cross section with an outside diameter of not less than **1 1/4 in.** and not more than **2 in.**
- (2) A shape that is other than circular with a perimeter dimension of not less than **4 in.**, but not more than **6 1/4 in.**, and with the largest cross-sectional dimension not more than **2 1/4 in.** provided that graspable edges are rounded



Handrail brackets or balusters attached to the bottom surface of the handrail shall not be considered to be obstructions to graspability,



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL & STATE FIRE ACADEMY

Central Office Berlin 802-479-7561 **State Fire Academy Office** Pittsford 802-483-2755
Regional Offices Barre 802-479-4434 * Rutland 802-786-5867 * Springfield 802-885-8883 * Williston 802-879-2300

www.vtfiresafety.org