

1007.5 Handrails

1007.5.1 Stairways having four or more risers above a floor or finished ground level, shall be equipped with handrails located not less than 34 inches (864 mm) nor more than 38 inches (965 mm) above the leading edge of a tread.

Exceptions:

1. Handrails that form part of a guardrail may be 42 inches (1067 mm) high.
2. As required for Group I Unrestrained in 1024.1.4.

1007.5.2 Stairways shall have handrails on each side.

Exceptions:

1. Aisle stairs provided with a center handrail need not have additional handrails.
2. Stairs within dwelling units, spiral stairs and aisle stairs serving seating only on one side may have a handrail on one side only.

1007.5.3 Handrails shall have either a circular cross section with a diameter of 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) to 2 inches (51 mm), or a noncircular cross section with a perimeter dimension of at least 4 inches (102 mm) but not more than 6 1/4 inches (159 mm) and a largest cross section dimension not exceeding 2 1/4 inches (57 mm). Edges shall have a minimum radius of 1/8 inch (3 mm).

Exception: Handrails for dwellings or within dwelling units shall have a circular cross section with a diameter of 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) to 2 inches (51 mm), or provide a noncircular cross section with equivalent graspability performance.

1007.5.4 Gripping surfaces shall be continuous, without interruption by newel posts or other obstructions.

Exceptions:

1. Handrails within dwelling units shall be permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at a turn.
2. In dwelling units, the use of a volute, turnout or starting easing shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

1007.5.5 Handrails shall extend at least 12 inches (305 mm) horizontally beyond the top riser of a flight. At the bottom, the handrail shall continue to slope for a distance of the depth of one tread from the bottom riser.

Exceptions:

1. Handrails within a dwelling unit.
2. Continuous handrails at the inside turn of stairs.

1007.5.6 Clear space between handrail and wall shall be a minimum of 1 1/2 inches (38 mm).

1007.5.7 Handrails shall be provided within 30 inches (762 mm) of all portions of the stair width required for egress capacity in accordance with Table 1004.

1007.5.8 Handrails, where required along open-sided flights of stairs, shall be of construction adequate in strength, durability and attachment for their purposes as prescribed in 1608.2.

1007.5.9 On monumental stairs, handrails shall be located along the most direct path of egress travel.

1007.6 Width

1007.6.1 Stairs shall be clear of all obstructions except projections not exceeding 3 1/2 inches (89 mm) at or below handrail height on each side.

1007.6.2 Width of stairs shall not decrease in the direction of exit travel.

1007.6.3 The minimum width of any stair serving as a means of egress shall be in accordance with Table 1004.

1007.7 Headroom. Stairs shall have a minimum headroom clearance of 6 ft 8 inches (2032 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the edge of the nosings. Such headroom shall be continuous above the stair to the point where the line intersects the landing below, one tread depth beyond the bottom riser. This minimum shall be maintained the full width of the stair and landing.

1007.8 Special stairs

1007.8.1 Winders shall have a minimum tread depth of 6 inches (152 mm) at the narrow edge and shall have a minimum tread depth of 11 inches (279 mm) at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the narrow edge. Winders shall be permitted to be used as a component in the means of egress within a dwelling unit.

1007.8.2 Spiral stairways shall be permitted to be used as a component in the means of egress within dwelling units and from a mezzanine not more than 250 sq ft (23 m²) and serving not more than five occupants. A spiral stairway shall have a 7 1/2-inch (190 mm) minimum clear tread depth at a point 12 inches (305 mm) from the narrow edge. The risers shall be sufficient to provide a headroom of 6 ft 6 in (1981 mm) minimum, but riser height shall not be more than 9 1/2 inches (114 mm). The minimum stairway width shall be 26 inches (660 mm).

1007.8.3 Circular stairways shall be permitted to be used as a component in the means of egress providing the minimum depth of tread is not less than 11 inches (279 mm) measured 12 inches (305 mm) from the smaller radius, and the smaller radius is not less than twice the width of the stairway. In Group R3 Occupancies, circular stairs may have a minimum tread depth of 9 inches (229 mm) with 1 inch (25.4 mm) of nosing, and the smaller radius may be less than twice the width of the stairway.

LEGACY CODE FOR 2010 FRC
SECTION R311.7.9.3