

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS OF CALIFORNIA

PROPERTY & LIABILITY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

BLEACHER INSPECTIONS

As school begins districts prepare to occupy facilities or use equipment that may have been unused throughout the summer. Before such facilities and/or equipment are placed back in service, the district should conduct inspections to ensure they are safe for their intended use.

One area of concern is bleachers. Indoor and outdoor bleachers can present a risk to users if they are not properly maintained and in proper working order. Districts should be aware of the following when inspecting and repairing bleachers:

Indoor Bleachers

1. All motorized components should be tested to ensure they are operating properly. Motors should run smoothly without any bind or stress to the unit. Floor areas must be kept clear of debris and/or obstructions to ensure the assemblies operate properly.
2. Manual mechanisms should also be tested to ensure all the components are working properly and that the unit can be raised and lowered completely and smoothly.
3. The brake mechanism should be in place to help prohibit free rolling while in the extended position.
4. All structural members should be in good condition, free from any breaks, bends, irregularities, or missing components.
5. Foot boards and seating areas should be properly secured and free from cracks, splinters, and exposed screws or bolts.

Outdoor Bleachers

1. All structural members should be intact without any broken or missing components.
2. All welds should be free of flaws, breaks, or separations.
3. Foot boards and seating areas should be properly secured and free from cracks, splinters, and exposed screws or bolts.

Guardrails

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends guardrails be present on the backs and portions of the open ends of bleachers where the footboard, seatboard, or aisle is 30 inches or more above the floor or ground below. Bleachers with the top row nominally 30 inches above the ground may be exempt from this recommendation.

The top surface of the guardrail should be at least 42 inches above the leading edge of the footboard, seatboard, or aisle, whichever is adjacent. When bleachers are used adjacent to a wall that is at least as high as the recommended guardrail height, the guardrail is not necessary if a 4-inch diameter sphere fails to pass between the bleachers and the wall. Any opening between components of the guardrail or under the guardrail should prevent passage of a 4-inch sphere.

To discourage climbing on guardrails, guardrails should be designed in one of three ways:

1. Use only vertical members as in-fill between the top and bottom rails.
2. If there are opening in the in-fill

that could provide a foothold for climbing, the widest measurement of the opening where the foot could rest should be limited to a maximum of 1.75 inches. Opening patterns that provide a ladder effect should be avoided.

3. Where visibility would not be significantly impaired, use solid members.

See guardrail diagram on page 2

Please contact your SISC Safety Specialist at (661) 636-4604 if you have any questions.

By: Safety and Loss Control

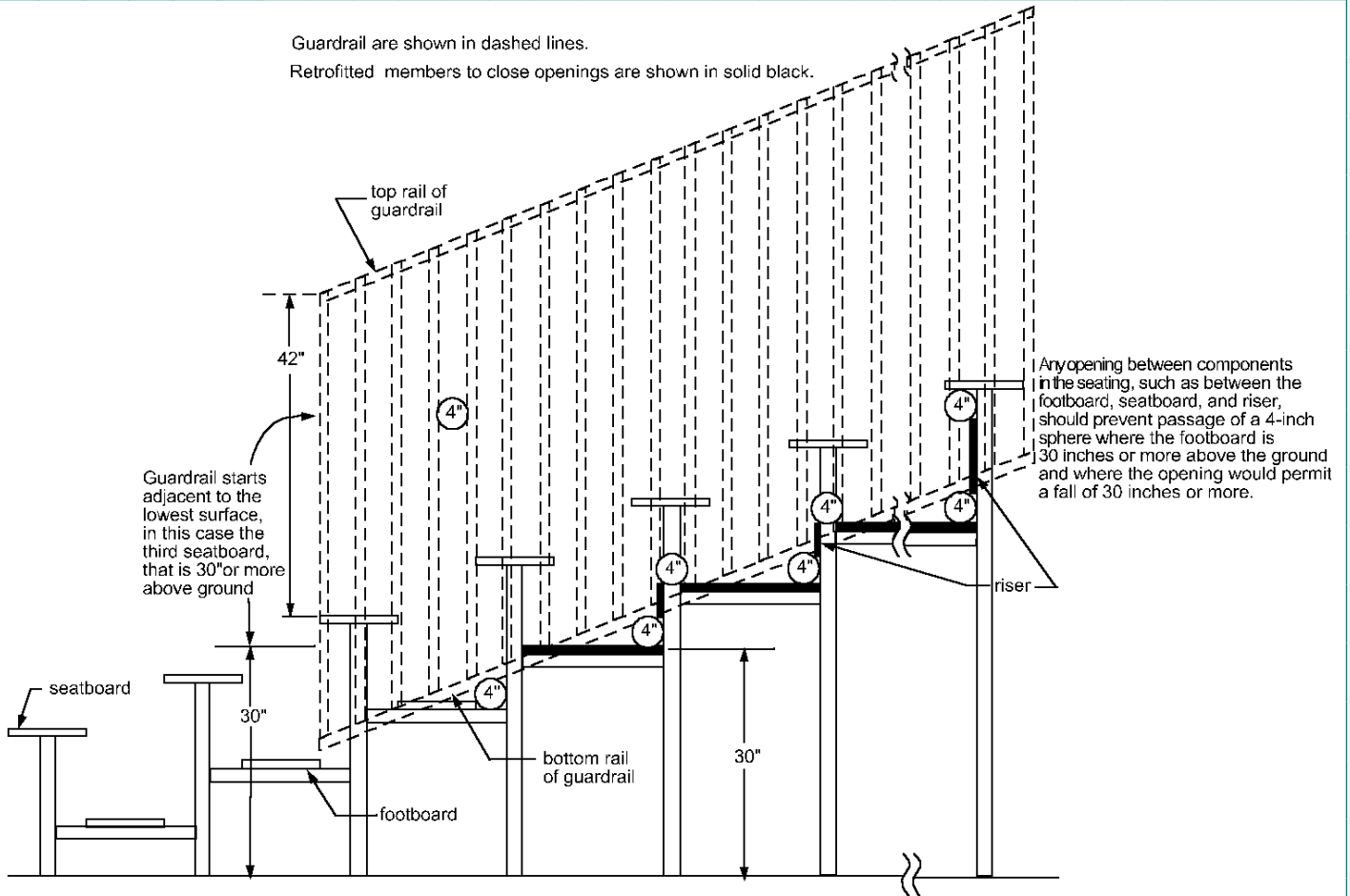


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SCHOOLS HELPING SCHOOLS

Guardrail are shown in dashed lines.
Retrofitted members to close openings are shown in solid black.



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