

**OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-67
Issued September 10, 1979
Revised March 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Handrails, Stair Rails, and Stair Rail Systems in General Industry

AFFECTED STANDARDS/

DIRECTIVES: 1910.29(f)(2)

PURPOSE: The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines when evaluating the clearance between handrails, stair railings, and stair rail systems and walls or other objects.

BACKGROUND:

- A. The former rule 1910.23(e)(5)(iii) required that: “. . . the length of brackets shall be such as will give a clearance between handrail and wall or any projection thereon of at least 3 inches.” The former rule 1910.23(e)(6) stated, “All handrails and railings shall be provided with a clearance of not less than 3 inches between the handrail or railing and any other object.”
- B. Since 1970, the Uniform Building Code (UBC) has called for a 1 ½ inch clearance between railings and the wall or other objects.

ACTION: On January 17, 2017 federal OSHA made effective the new Subpart D Walking-Working Surfaces rule for General Industry: 1910.29(f)(2).

On November 1, 2017 Oregon OSHA made effective the new Walking-Working Surfaces Division 2/D rule for General Industry. The rule that applies to finger clearance for handrails and stair rail systems is now 1910.29(f)(2), which states:

(2) Finger clearance. The minimum clearance between handrails and any other object is 2.25 inches (5.7 cm).

The terms “handrail,” “stair rail,” and “stair rail system,” are defined in 1910.21(b)

EFFECTIVE

DATE: This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.

History: Issued 9-10-1979 Revised 3-9-2001 and 3-16-2018.