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## HANDRAILS

### IRC Code Section

2000 International Residential Code Changes

**Section R315 of the IRC requires handrails at stairways with 2 or more risers and also increased the maximum cross sectional area of the handrail to 2 5/8".**

**R.315.2 Handrail Grip Size.** The handgrip portion of handrails shall have a circular cross section of 1 1/4 inches (32 mm) minimum to 2 5/8 inches (67 mm) maximum. Other handrail shapes that provide an equivalent grasping surface are permissible. Edges shall have a minimum radius of 1/8 inch (3.2mm).

### Section R315: Handrails

**R.315.1 Handrails.** Handrails having minimum and maximum heights of 34 inches and 38 inches (364 mm and 965 mm), respectively, measured vertically from the nosing of the treads, shall be provided on at least one side of stairways.

All required handrails shall be continuous the full length of the stairs with two or more risers from a point directly above the tip riser of a flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of the light. Ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than 1.5 inches (38 mm) between the wall and the handrail.

#### Exceptions

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

