



Department of Permitting Services
Division of Commercial Building Construction
 255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850

CODE INTERPRETATION/POLICY

Policy Name: Handrail Clearance

Code/Year	Section of Code	Title of Code Section/Subsection
IBC 2015	1014.0	Clearance
E.R # 4-15AMII	08.00.02.54	
LSC 101, 2015	7.2.2.4.5.5	Handrail Details
ADAAG 2010	505.5	Clearance

Statement/Background of Issue

This policy is to clarify that handrail clearance required between (a) the handrail and the wall on which it is mounted and (b) the handrail and the guards on which it is fastened.

Division Interpretation/Policy

Based on the provisions in the un-amended IBC 2015, ADA Accessibility Guidelines, and the explanatory material in the Life Safety Code (101), and in order to unify the requirements of the several applicable standards, it shall be the policy of the department to permit handrails on the stairways with clearance as noted as follows:

(a) Not less than 1 ½" clear between the handrail and the guard(s) on which it is fastened,

(b) Not less than 2 ¼" clear between the handrail and the wall(s) on which it is mounted.

Interpretation/Policy No.	Date	Division Chief
BCP1-2017	August 21, 2017	 Steve Thomas