

TITLE: HANDRAIL
VERSION: V3.0
DATE PUBLISHED: 06/20/23

DEFINITION: A rail fixed to posts or a wall for people to hold on to for support.
PURPOSE: A rail designed to be grasped by the hand to provide stability or support. Handrails are commonly used while ascending or descending stairways and escalators in order to prevent injurious falls.
COMMON COMPONENTS: Rail; Baluster; Brackets; Anchor
LOCATION: Unit Stairs, hallways, ramps
 Inside Stairs, hallways, ramps, elevators
 Outside Stairs, ramps, elevators
MORE INFORMATION: None

DEFICIENCY 1: Handrail is missing.
LOCATION: Unit Inside Outside

DEFICIENCY 2: Handrail is not secure.
LOCATION: Unit Inside Outside

DEFICIENCY 3: Handrail is not functionally adequate.
LOCATION: Unit Inside Outside

DEFICIENCY 4: Handrail is not installed where required.
LOCATION: Unit Inside Outside

DEFICIENCY I — UNIT: HANDRAIL IS MISSING.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: Handrail is missing (i.e., evidence of prior installation, but now not present or is incomplete).

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Moderate The Moderate Health and Safety category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a moderate risk of an adverse medical event requiring a healthcare visit; cause temporary harm; or if left untreated, cause or worsen a chronic condition that may have long-lasting adverse health effects; or that the physical security or safety of a resident or their property could be compromised.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION:

- Look for all areas with stairs or ramps, or along the walls in hallways where handrails may be present.
- Verify a handrail is present on at least one side of each continuous run of treads.

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION:

- Stairs: Count the number of steps.
- Ramp: Measure the length and rise of the ramp.

MORE INFORMATION:

- Stairs: A handrail is required if 4 or more risers are present.
- Ramp: When a ramp has a rise greater than 6 inches or a horizontal projection greater than 72 inches, then handrails must be present on both sides.

DEFICIENCY I — INSIDE: HANDRAIL IS MISSING.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: Handrail is missing (i.e., evidence of prior installation, but now not present or is incomplete).

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REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION: - Stairs: Count the number of steps.
 - Ramp: Measure the length and rise of the ramp.

MORE INFORMATION: - Stairs: A handrail is required if 4 or more risers are present.
 - Ramp: When a ramp has a rise greater than 6 inches or a horizontal projection greater than 72 inches, then handrails must be present on both sides.

DEFICIENCY 2 — UNIT: HANDRAIL IS NOT SECURE.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: There is movement in the anchors of the handrail.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Moderate The Moderate Health and Safety category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a moderate risk of an adverse medical event requiring a healthcare visit; cause temporary harm; or if left untreated, cause or worsen a chronic condition that may have long-lasting adverse health effects; or that the physical security or safety of a resident or their property could be compromised.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days

HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION: - Look for movement of the handrail when tested.

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION: - Grab the handrail and rapidly push and pull the with moderate force.
 - Perform this action at both ends and the middle of the handrail.
 - If there is no movement, disregard this deficiency.
 - If there is movement, continue.
 - Ensure handrails are firmly attached with no movement at anchor points.

MORE INFORMATION: - The handrail and top rail of the stair rail system must be able to withstand, without failure, at least 200 pounds of weight applied within 2 inches of the top edge in any downward or outward direction, at any point along the top edge.

DEFICIENCY 2 — INSIDE: HANDRAIL IS NOT SECURE.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: There is movement in the anchors of the handrail.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: **Moderate** The Moderate Health and Safety category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a moderate risk of an adverse medical event requiring a healthcare visit; cause temporary harm; or if left untreated, cause or worsen a chronic condition that may have long-lasting adverse health effects; or that the physical security or safety of a resident or their property could be compromised.

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INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION: - Look for movement of the handrail when tested.

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

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MORE INFORMATION: - The handrail and top rail of the stair rail system must be able to withstand, without failure, at least 200 pounds of weight applied within 2 inches of the top edge in any downward or outward direction, at any point along the top edge.

DEFICIENCY 2 — OUTSIDE: HANDRAIL IS NOT SECURE.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: There is movement in the anchors of the handrail.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: **Moderate** The Moderate Health and Safety category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a moderate risk of an adverse medical event requiring a healthcare visit; cause temporary harm; or if left untreated, cause or worsen a chronic condition that may have long-lasting adverse health effects; or that the physical security or safety of a resident or their property could be compromised.

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REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

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MORE INFORMATION: - The handrail and top rail of the stair rail system must be able to withstand, without failure, at least 200 pounds of weight applied within 2 inches of the top edge in any downward or outward direction, at any point along the top edge.

DEFICIENCY 3 — UNIT: HANDRAIL IS NOT FUNCTIONALLY ADEQUATE.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: Handrail is not functionally adequate (i.e., it cannot reasonably be grasped by hand to provide stability or support when ascending or descending stairways).
 OR
 Handrail is not continuous for the full length of each stair flight.
 OR
 Handrail is not between 28 inches and 42 inches in height.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Moderate The Moderate Health and Safety category includes deficiencies that, if evident in the home or on the property, present a moderate risk of an adverse medical event requiring a healthcare visit; cause temporary harm; or if left untreated, cause or worsen a chronic condition that may have long-lasting adverse health effects; or that the physical security or safety of a resident or their property could be compromised.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days
HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:** - Look to ensure that the handrail is continuous for the full length of each stair flight.
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - Measure the height of the handrail.
 - Determine if the handrail is functionally adequate.
- More Information:** - None

DEFICIENCY 3 — INSIDE: HANDRAIL IS NOT FUNCTIONALLY ADEQUATE.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: Handrail is not functionally adequate (i.e., it cannot reasonably be grasped by hand to provide stability or support when ascending or descending stairways).
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CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days
HCV PASS / FAIL: Fail
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 30 days

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:** - Look to ensure that the handrail is continuous for the full length of each stair flight.
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - Measure the height of the handrail.
 - Determine if the handrail is functionally adequate.
- More Information:** - None

DEFICIENCY 3 — OUTSIDE: HANDRAIL IS NOT FUNCTIONALLY ADEQUATE.

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INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:** - Look to ensure that the handrail is continuous for the full length of each stair flight.
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - Measure the height of the handrail.
 - Determine if the handrail is functionally adequate.
- More Information:** - None

DEFICIENCY 4 — UNIT: HANDRAIL IS NOT INSTALLED WHERE REQUIRED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: 4 or more stair risers are present and a handrail is not installed.
 OR
 A ramp has a rise greater than 6 inches or a horizontal projection greater than 72 inches and a handrail is not installed on both sides.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: N/A N/A
CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: N/A
HCV PASS / FAIL: Pass
HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: N/A

INSPECTION PROCESS:

- OBSERVATION:** - Look for all areas with stairs or ramps, or along the walls in hallways where handrails may be present.
 - Verify handrail present on at least one side of each continuous run of treads.
- REQUEST FOR HELP:** - None
- ACTION:** - Stairs: Count the number of steps.
 - Ramp: Measure the length and rise of the ramp.
- More Information:** - None

DEFICIENCY 4 — INSIDE: HANDRAIL IS NOT INSTALLED WHERE REQUIRED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: 4 or more stair risers are present and a handrail is not installed.
OR
A ramp has a rise greater than 6 inches or a horizontal projection greater than 72 inches and a handrail is not installed on both sides.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Low Deficiencies critical to habitability but not presenting a substantive health or safety risk to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 60 days

HCV PASS / FAIL: Pass

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: N/A

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION: - Look for all areas with stairs or ramps, or along the walls in hallways where handrails may be present.
- Verify handrail present on at least one side of each continuous run of treads.

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION: - Stairs: Count the number of steps.
- Ramp: Measure the length and rise of the ramp.

More Information: - None

DEFICIENCY 4 — OUTSIDE: HANDRAIL IS NOT INSTALLED WHERE REQUIRED.

DEFICIENCY CRITERIA: 4 or more stair risers are present and a handrail is not installed.
 OR
 A ramp has a rise greater than 6 inches or a horizontal projection greater than 72 inches and a handrail is not installed on both sides.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DETERMINATION: Low Deficiencies critical to habitability but not presenting a substantive health or safety risk to resident.

CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: 60 days

HCV PASS / FAIL: Pass

HCV CORRECTION TIMEFRAME: N/A

INSPECTION PROCESS:

OBSERVATION: - Look for all areas with stairs or ramps, or along the walls in hallways where handrails may be present.
 - Verify handrail present on at least one side of each continuous run of treads.

REQUEST FOR HELP: - None

ACTION: - Stairs: Count the number of steps.
 - Ramp: Measure the length and rise of the ramp.

More Information: - None