

Table D-2 -- Stairway Handrail Requirements

Stair width	Enclosed	One open side	Two open sides	With earth built up on both sides
Less than 44 inches (1.1 m).	At least one handrail	One stair rail system with handrail on open side.	One stair rail system with handrail on each open side.	
44 inches (1.1 m) to 88 inches (2.2 m).	One handrail on each enclosed side	One stair rail system with handrail on open side and one handrail on enclosed side.	One stair rail system with handrail on each open side.	
Greater than 88 inches (2.2 m).	One handrail on each enclosed side and one intermediate handrail located in the middle of the stair	One stair rail system with handrail on open side, one handrail on enclosed side, and one intermediate handrail located in the middle of the stair.	One stair rail system with handrail on each open side and one intermediate handrail located in the middle of the stair.	
Exterior stairs less than 44 inches (1.1 m).				One handrail on at least one side.

Note to table: The width of the stair must be clear of all obstructions except handrails.

(iii) Each ship stairs and alternating tread type stairs is equipped with handrails on both sides.

(12) Scaffolds and rope descent systems. The employer must ensure:

(i) Each employee on a scaffold is protected from falling in accordance 29 CFR part 1926, subpart L; and

(ii) Each employee using a rope descent system 4 feet (1.2 m) or more above a lower