



CODE INFORMATION SHEET

Based on the 2015 edition of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code, NFPA 101 and NFPA 1

GUARD REQUIREMENTS

Guards are required at any drop off that exceeds 30 in. above the floor or the finished ground level below, except where guards are specifically exempted.

Guards shall also be provided at the open sides of means of egress that exceed 30 in. above the floor or grade below.



Code Requirements for a Guard [NFPA 101-7.2.2.4.6]

Guard Details NFPA 101:7.2.2.4.6

The height of guards required in 7.1.8 shall be measured vertically to the top of the guard from the surface adjacent thereto. 7.2.2.4.6.1

Guards shall be not less than 42 in. high, except as permitted by one of the following: 7.2.2.4.6.2

- (1) Existing guards within dwelling units shall be permitted to be not less than 36 in. high.
- (2) The requirement of 7.2.2.4.6.2 shall not apply in assembly occupancies
- (3) Existing guards on existing stairs shall be permitted to be not less than 30 in. high.

7.2.2.4.6.3 Open guards, other than approved existing open guards, shall have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern such that a sphere 4 in. in diameter is not able to pass through any opening up to a height of 34 in. and the following also shall apply:

- (1) The triangular openings formed by the riser, tread, and bottom element of a guardrail at the open side of a stair shall be of such size that a sphere 6 in. (150 mm) in diameter is not able to pass through the triangular opening.
- (2) In detention and correctional occupancies, in industrial occupancies, and in storage occupancies, the clear distance between intermediate rails, measured at right angles to the rails, shall not exceed 21 in.

