

School Bleachers

Inspections & Maintenance: Maintenance shall be provided as follows: (NFPA 5000:32.7.7)

- The owner shall provide for not less than annual inspections and required maintenance of each grandstand to ensure safe conditions.
- At least biennially, the inspection shall be performed by a professional engineer or registered architect.
- Where required by the authority having jurisdiction the owner shall provide certification that both inspections have been performed.

Follow-Up Inspections & Maintenance (Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC Publication 330)

Although the frequency of inspections should depend on the amount of use, CPSC recommends that bleachers be thoroughly inspected at least quarterly to identify any structural damage or degradation that could compromise safety.

- All problems should be corrected immediately.
- Inspections and maintenance should be carried out in a systematic manner by trained personnel.
- Documentation of these actions including the date and signature of the person performing them, should be retained.
- A licensed professional engineer, registered architect, or company that is qualified to provide bleacher products and services should inspect the bleachers at least every two years and provide a written certification at such time that the bleachers are fit for use.
- Records of all incidents and injuries should be retained. This will help identify potential hazards or dangerous design features that should be corrected.

Required to have the following:

- Four inch gap rule: No openings that exceed 4" diameter anywhere on the bleachers.
- Riser/fascia boards that close the vertical rise on each row.
- Double foot boards. A typical bleacher is 24" deep per row. Some old bleachers only use one 2x10 walking board. This leaves gaps of 12" or more that patrons could fall through.

Proper Side and End Rails:

- Bleacher must have proper end rails and rear rails. On outdoor bleachers, this is typically done with chain link fence. On indoor bleachers, this is done with the rear wall (no rear rails needed) or properly designed steel rear rails that do not violate 4" diameter rule.

Egress Aisles:

Bleachers are required to have a certain quantity and width of code compliant aisles based upon capacity.

- Aisle widths are driven by "persons served" and end aisle versus center aisles.
- Aisles are required to have intermediate half steps if the rise exceeds 8".
- Aisles are required to have two-line handrails.
- Foot level aisles are required. Older indoor bleachers used aisles that were essentially paint on the seat which were called *seat level aisles*. These are NOT to code.
- Top row press box or camera platforms must have proper egress/aisle access.

ADA Seating:

- There are minimum requirements in regards to the amount of ADA locations based upon capacity of bleachers and the width/depth of the ADA locations.
- ADA locations are required to have companion seating which means you can NEVER gang more than two wheelchair locations together.
- ADA seating locations must be integrated within the normal seating system. In other words, you cannot just throw a platform at the end of the bleacher and put all of your ADA patrons there.