



GUARDRAIL CRITERIA

- Top edge height of top rails shall be 42 inches plus or minus 3 inches above walking / working level.
- Mid-rails are installed at a height midway between the top edge of the guardrail system and the walking-working surface
- Top rail must be able to withstand 200 lbs. test load in downward direction without deflecting more than 3 inches in one direction or fall below less than 39 inches.
- Mid-rails must be able to withstand 150 lbs. of load test without failure.
- If wire rope is used for top rails, it shall be flagged at 6-foot intervals.
- When guardrail systems are used around holes which are used as points of access (such as ladders), they shall be provided with a gate, or be offset so that a person cannot walk directly into the hole.
- For wood railings: the post shall be spaced not more than 8 feet apart on center, surface must be free from splinters and snags.
- For wire rails: the post shall be spaced not more than 15 feet apart and toe boards must be installed around the perimeter on center. (Weigand Rule)
- Wire top and mid rails must be at least ¼ inch diameter to prevent cuts and lacerations.

