

CHAPTER 5

EXISTING BLEACHERS, FOLDING AND TELESCOPIC SEATING, AND GRANDSTANDS

SECTION 501 APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

501.1 General. Existing bleachers, folding and telescopic seating, and grandstands that exist prior to the adoption of this standard shall comply with this chapter and the applicable provisions of Chapter 1.

Exception: Tiered seating where the top of footboards, seatboards, aisles and cross aisles are not more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below, unless judged by the code official to represent a distinct hazard.

501.2 Inspection. All existing tiered seating shall be inspected and evaluated at least once a year by a qualified person for compliance with the provisions of this chapter. All folding and telescopic seating shall be inspected to evaluate compliance with the manufacturer's installation and operational instructions, including an inspection during the opening and closing of such seating.

501.3 Violations. Where deficiencies are identified, the owner shall have until [DATE TO BE INSERTED BY JURISDICTION] to abate the unsafe condition as deemed necessary by the code official.

501.4 Alterations. Alterations to any tiered seating shall conform with the requirements of this standard for new construction. Portions of the structure not altered and not affected by the alteration are not required to comply with the requirements in this standard for a new structure.

SECTION 502 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

502.1 Structural. Existing tiered seating shall be maintained structurally sound as follows.

1. Components or fasteners shall not be broken, damaged, badly deteriorated or missing.
2. Adequate bearing shall be provided. The structure shall bear uniformly on the floor or ground in a manner so as to safely support the structure.
3. All components and systems shall be in proper working condition.

502.2 Durability. Materials used in the construction of outdoor installations shall be weather resistant. Where wood is used, it shall be naturally durable or preservative-treated wood as defined in the building code or other approved material. Where ferrous metal is used, it shall be protected from corrosion. Fasteners shall consist of aluminum or other approved corrosion-resistant materials or shall be provided with approved corrosion-resistant coatings such as copper or zinc.

502.3 Interior corrosive environment. Installations located in interior corrosive environments, such as those located in conjunction with indoor pools, shall be corrosion resistant.

502.4 Spaces beneath seats. Spaces beneath or adjacent to seating structures shall comply with the fire code.

SECTION 503 GUARDS

503.1 Required guards. Guards shall be provided in the following areas.

1. Along open-sided walking surfaces, cross aisles, stepped aisles, ramps and landings of tiered seating areas which are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below. Such guards shall be not less than 36 inches (1067 mm) high, measured vertically above the leading edge of the tread, adjacent walking surface or center of adjacent bench seat.

Exceptions:

1. Where the uppermost seat is located less than or equal to 55 inches (1397 mm) above the floor or ground below.
2. Where located adjacent to a wall and the space between the wall and the tiered seating is less than 4 inches (102 mm).
2. Unless subject to the requirements of Item 3, a guard with a minimum height of 26 inches (660 mm) shall be provided where the floor or footboard elevation is more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below and the guard would otherwise interfere with the sightlines of immediately adjacent seating.
3. A guard shall be provided for the full width of the aisle where the foot of the aisle is more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or ground below. The guard shall be a minimum of 36 inches (914 mm) high.

503.2 Opening limitations. Open guards shall be constructed of materials such that a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere cannot pass through any opening.

Exception: The triangular opening formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail at the open side of an aisle stair or tiered seating shall be of a maximum size such that a sphere of 6 inches (152 mm) in diameter cannot pass through the opening.

503.3 Guard design. Guards and their attachment shall be designed to resist the loads indicated in Section 303.

**SECTION 504
OPEN SPACES AT FOOTBOARDS AND
SEATBOARDS**

504.1 Open spaces at footboards and seatboards. Where an opening between the seatboard and footboard is located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or ground below, the opening shall be closed with construction such that a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere cannot pass through.

Exception: Where the uppermost seat is located less than or equal to 55 inches (1397 mm) above the floor or ground below.