

WAC 296-307-25027 What are the requirements for railing dimensions? Standard railings must meet the following requirements:

- (1) For wood railings:
 - (a) The posts are of at least two inch by four inch nominal stock spaced six feet apart or less; and
 - (b) The top and intermediate rails are of at least two inch by four inch nominal stock.
 - (c) If the top rail is made of two right-angle pieces of 1-inch by 4-inch stock, posts are spaced on 8-foot centers, with 2-inch by 4-inch intermediate rail.
- (2) For pipe railings:
 - (a) The posts and top and intermediate railings are at least 1-1/2 inches nominal diameter (outside diameter); and
 - (b) The posts are spaced on centers of eight feet or less.
- (3) For structural steel railings:
 - (a) The posts and top and intermediate rails are of 2-inch by 2-inch by 3/8-inch angles or other metal shapes of equivalent bending strength; and
 - (b) The posts are spaced on centers of eight feet or less.
- (4) Post anchors and framing parts for all railings are constructed so that the completed structure can withstand a load of at least two hundred pounds applied in any direction at any point on the top rail.
- (5) Other types, sizes, and arrangements of railing construction that meet the following requirements are acceptable:
 - (a) The top rail is smooth;
 - (b) The top rail is between thirty-six and forty-two inches nominal above the floor, platform, runway, or ramp level;
 - (c) The railing is strong enough to withstand two hundred pounds of pressure on the top rail;
 - (d) The railing provides protection between the top rail and the floor, platform, runway, ramp, or stair treads, equivalent to that of a standard intermediate rail;
 - (e) There are no overhanging rail ends unless the overhang does not create a hazard; such as baluster railings, scrollwork railings, or paneled railings.

Note: The dimensions specified are based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wood Handbook, No. 72, 1955 (No. 1 (S4S) Southern Yellow Pine (Modulus of Rupture 7,400 psi)) for wood; ANSI G 41.5-1970, American National Standard Specifications for Structural Steel, for structural steel; and ANSI B 125.1-1970, American National Standard Specifications for Welded and Steamless Steel Pipe, for pipe.

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