

**(Effective March 15, 2024)**

**WAC 51-51-0312 Section R312—Guards and window fall protection.**

**R312.1.1 Where required.** *Guards* shall be provided for those portions of open-sided walking surfaces, including mezzanines, *lofts* in accordance with Section R333, stairs, ramps, and landings, that are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) measured vertically to the floor or *grade* below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side. Insect screening shall not be considered as a *guard*.

**R312.1.2 Height.** Required *guards* at open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, porches, balconies or landings, shall be not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height as measured vertically above the adjacent walking surface or the line connecting the *nosings*.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. *Guards* on the open sides of stairs shall have a height of not less than 34 inches (864 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the *nosings*.
2. Where the top of the *guard* serves as a handrail on the open sides of stairs, the top of the *guard* shall be not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm) as measured vertically from a line connecting the *nosings*.
3. In areas with ceiling heights of 7 feet (2134 mm) or less in *lofts* constructed in accordance with Section R333, *guards* shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height or one-half of the clear height from the *loft* floor to the *loft* ceiling, whichever is less.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 23-02-058, 23-12-104, and 23-20-024, § 51-51-0312, filed 1/3/23, 6/7/23, and 9/25/23, effective 3/15/24.]

**(Effective March 16, 2024)**

**WAC 51-51-0312 Section R312—Guards and window fall protection.**

**R312.1.1 Where required.** *Guards* shall be provided for those portions of open-sided walking surfaces, including floors, mezzanines, *lofts* in accordance with Section R333, stairs, ramps, and landings, that are located more than 30 inches (762 mm) measured vertically to the floor or *grade* below at any point within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally to the edge of the open side. Insect screening shall not be considered as a *guard*.

**R312.1.2 Height.** Required *guards* at open-sided walking surfaces, including stairs, porches, balconies or landings, shall be not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height as measured vertically above the adjacent walking surface or the line connecting the *nosings*.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. *Guards* on the open sides of stairs shall have a height of not less than 34 inches (864 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the *nosings*.
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3. In areas with ceiling heights of 7 feet (2134 mm) or less in *lofts* constructed in accordance with Section R333, *guards* shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height or one-half of the clear height from the *loft* floor to the *loft* ceiling, whichever is less.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 19.27.031 and 19.27.074. WSR 23-23-104, § 51-51-0312, filed 11/15/23, effective 3/16/24; WSR 23-02-058, 23-12-104, and 23-20-024, § 51-51-0312, filed 1/3/23, 6/7/23, and 9/25/23, effective 3/15/24.]