

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 12-0001

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date: March 19, 2013

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 2012

Subject: Maximum width of support brackets for handrails

Keywords: Handrail, graspability

Building Code Reference(s): 3.4.6.5.(3); 9.8.7.5.(2)

Question:

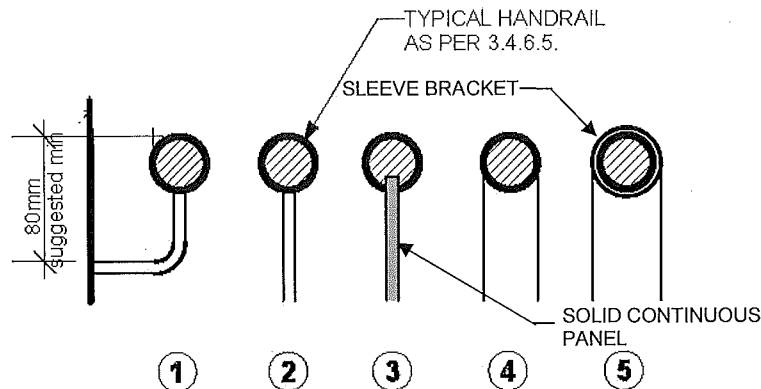
What is the maximum cross-section width of support brackets for handrails that is acceptable?

Interpretation:

There is no maximum cross section width for support bracket regulated by the Code. All supports for handrails will restrict continuity of graspability of handrails. The design of handrail supports should minimize those interruptions.

Sentences 3.4.6.5.(3) and 9.8.7.5.(2) of the Building Code require attention to the ergonomic design of handrails and as a minimum stipulates the shape, minimum and maximum dimensions and circumference of acceptable handrails. These requirements together with the principal of continuously graspable handrail fulfill Objective Statements OS3.1 OS3.7 and protect public as per Functional Statements F10 and F30.

The images below show commonly used designs that provide good balance between strong grip and firm support. The first three images are preferable. The fourth and the fifth are breaking the grip in much higher degrees, however are commonly used in many applications.



R. J. Light

R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.