

CODE ALERT:**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR METAL GUARDRAILS
ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria (AC273) for Metal Guards****ARE YOU READY?**

On June 6, 2017 the ICC-ES Standards Committee approved changes to AC273, Acceptance Criteria for Handrails and Guards. Although AC273 applies to any conventional material (including wood), it affects predominately, evaluations of metal rails (steel and aluminum). The approved changes are substantial and will affect current practice for all new product evaluations and future updates to current CCRR's for metal railings.

Highlights of the changes include:

- New test load procedures to align with ASTM E 935.
- Vertical concentrated load requirement added
- **Horizontal and vertical loads are not applied concurrently (separate tests)**
- When attachment to the support structure is outside the scope of the evaluation, the assembly shall be attached to rigid test fixture using bolts/fasteners consistent with intended installation (qty, size and placement of bolts or other fasteners)
- Deflection criteria consistent with ASTM E 935 and E 985 with additional requirements:
 - Deflection of top rail including posts shall not exceed $h/24 + l/96$ or $h/12$
 - **Net deflection of top rail between posts shall not exceed $l/96$.**
 - **Deflection limits apply to both the uniform and concentrated design loads.**
- Provisions added for testing alternative posts and post anchorage (4.3, 4.4 and 4.6)
- Post base attachment to supporting structure.
- **3.0 Safety Factor for wood components.**
- Post deflection now taken at top of rail height; not top of post.

Whether you're developing new product lines or need to evaluate current product compliance with these new standards, Intertek's metal railing evaluation expertise can help you navigate the critical provisions of these criteria.

AC273 can be acquired from ICC at <http://shop.iccsafe.org/>

Please contact us with any questions, comments or interpretations regarding the revised acceptance criteria.

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