R311.7.8 Handrails. Handrails shall be provided on not less than one side of each continuous run of treads or flight with four or more risers.

R311.7.8.1 Height. Handrail height, measured vertically from the sloped plane adjoining the tread nosing, or finish surface of ramp slope, shall be not less than 34 inches and not more than 38 inches.

R311.7.8.3 Grip-size. Required handrails shall be of one of the following types of provide equivalent graspability.

1. Type 1. Handrails with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of not less than 1 ¼ inches and not greater than 2 inches. If the handrail is not circular, it shall have a perimeter dimension of not less than 4 inches and not greater than 6 ¼ inches. With a cross section of dimension of not more than 2 ¼ inches. Edges shall have a radius of not less than 0.01 inch.

2. Type II. Handrails with a perimeter greater than 6 ¼ inches shall have a graspable finger recess on both sides of the profile. The finger recess shall begin with a distance of ¾ inch measure vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of not less than 5/16 with 7/8 inch below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for not less than 3/8 inch to a level that is not less than 1 ¾ inches below the tallest portion of the profile. The width of the handrail above the recess shall be not less than 1 ¼ inches and not more than 2 ¾ inches. Edges shall have a radius of not less than 0.01 inch.

This document is meant to offer perspective and does not imply to be an exhaustive code evaluation or a prescriptive repair to your property. It is your responsibility to determine proper installation, determine what work requires permits, and to obtain permits when required.