

Bleacher Safety Checklist

***All bleachers whether stationary or mobile, should be inspected annually.**

Check with your local by-law to see if there are specific requirements for bleacher seating in your area. *Fire safety codes could override building codes for indoor events in some areas.

Below are some general guidelines for things to check when assessing your bleachers:

STRUCTURAL

- Are all components and systems in proper working condition?
- When walking on the bleachers, do they feel unsafe in any way?
- Are there any signs of corrosion or rot on structural supports, floorboards or seating?
- Are materials used in the construction of outdoor installations weather resistant?
Where wood is used, is it naturally durable or preservative-treated wood?
- Are components or fasteners broken, damaged, badly deteriorated or missing?
- Are the welds intact- no cracks?
- Are there any damaged, loose, or missing cross braces?
- Are all seat and foot boards present and securely fastened?
- Are all nuts and bolts present and tight?
- Are any seat or floorboards abnormally bowed?
- Are seat or floorboards splintered, cracked, or insect-infested?
- Are the ends of protruding bolts and tubing capped?

GUARDRAILS

- Are guardrails present along open-sided walking surfaces, cross aisles, stepped aisles, ramps and landings of tiered seating areas which are located more than 30" above the floor or grade below? Exception: When bleachers are used adjacent to a wall and the space between the wall and the seating is less than 4".
- Is the top surface of the guardrail at least 42" above the leading edge of the footboard, seat board, or aisle, whichever is present?
- Are guardrails provided for the full width of the aisle where the foot of the aisle is more than 30" above the floor or ground below

OPENINGS

- Are open guardrails constructed of materials such that a 4-inch-diameter sphere cannot pass through any opening?
- Where an opening between the seat board and footboard is located more than 30" above the floor or ground below, is the opening closed with construction such that a 4-inch-diameter sphere cannot pass through?
- If chain link fencing is used on guardrails is the mesh size 1.25 inch square or less?

FOLDING / TELESCOPING BLEACHERS

- Do motorized units run smoothly without bind or stress?
- Are the wheels split, cracked, or show any other damage?
- For wall attached telescopic units: Are the wall ties securely attached to both the wall and the unit?
- For floor attached units: are the floor anchors tight?
- Are the moving parts lubricated on a regular basis?
- Is wiring in good condition?
- Is only trained staff allowed to operate bleachers?

OTHER

- Do the bleachers have stairs of uniform rise, with a hand rail?
- Are aisles clearly marked, accessible and have non-skid surfaces?
- Is all tiered seating inspected at least once a year by a qualified person? (Inspections should be documented in writing and kept on file)

*For the full requirements pertained to tiered seating, refer to the International Building Code, and the building code for your province or state.

Resource:

“2012 ICC 300 Standard on Bleachers, Folding and Telescopic Seating, and Grandstands”

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/ICC3002012>

If you have any questions about bleacher safety, or are interested in a quote on renting or purchasing mobile bleachers, please reach out to us.

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