

## SECTION R312

## GUARDS AND FALL PROTECTION

**R312.1 Guards.** *Guards* shall be provided in accordance with Sections R312.1.1 through R312.1.4.

**R312.1.1 Where required.** *Guards* shall be located along open-sided walking surfaces, including 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 leading edges of the treads.

## Exceptions:

1. *Guards* on the open sides of stairs shall have a height not less than 34 inches (864 mm) measured vertically from a line connecting the leading edges of the treads.
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 leading edges of the treads.

**R312.1.3 Opening Limitations.** Required *guards* shall not have openings from the walking surface to the required *guard* height that allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter.

## Exceptions:

1. The triangular openings at the open side of stair, formed by the riser, tread and bottom rail of a *guard*, shall not allow passage of a sphere 6 inches (153 mm) in diameter.
2. *Guards* on the open side of stairs shall not have openings that allow passage of a sphere  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches (111 mm) in diameter.

**R312.1.4 Exterior plastic composite guards.** Plastic composite exterior *guards* shall comply with the requirements of Section R317.4.

**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 30 inches (762 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm).

## Exceptions:

1. The use of a volute, turnout or starting easing shall be allowed over the lowest tread.
2. Where handrail fittings or bendings are used to provide continuous transition between flights, transitions at winder treads, the transition from handrail to *guard*, or used at the start of a flight, the handrail height at the fittings or bendings shall be permitted to exceed 38 inches (956 mm).

**R311.7.8.2 Continuity.** Handrails for stairways shall be continuous for the full length of the flight, from a point directly above the top riser of the flight to a point directly above the lowest riser of the flight. Handrail ends shall be returned or shall terminate in newel posts or safety terminals. Handrails adjacent to a wall shall have a space of not less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches (38 mm) between the wall and the handrails.

## Exceptions:

1. Handrails shall be permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at the turn.
2. The use of a volute, turnout, starting easing or starting newel shall be allowed over the lowest tread.

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

1. **Type I.** Handrails with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of not less than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (32 mm) and not greater than 2 inches (51 mm). If the handrail is not circular, it shall have a perimeter dimension of not less than 4 inches (102 mm) and not greater than  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches (160 mm) with a cross section of dimension of not more than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches (57 mm). Edges shall have a radius of not less than 0.01 inch (0.25 mm).
2. **Type II.** Handrails with a perimeter greater than  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches (160 mm) shall have a graspable finger recess area on both sides of the profile. The finger recess shall begin within a distance of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19 mm) measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of not less than  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch (8 mm) within  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch (22 mm) below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for not less than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (10 mm) to a level that is not less than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches (45 mm) below the tallest portion of the profile. The width of the handrail above the recess shall be not less than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (32 mm) and not more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches (70 mm). Edges shall have a radius of not less than 0.01 inch (0.25 mm).

**R311.7.8.4 Exterior plastic composite handrails.** Plastic composite exterior handrails shall comply with the requirements of Section R507.3.

## R311.7 Stairways.

**R311.7.1 Width.** Stairways shall be not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in clear width at all points above the permitted handrail height and below the required headroom height. Handrails shall not project more than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches (114 mm) on either side of the stairway and the clear width of the stairway at and below the handrail height, including treads and landings, shall be not less than  $31\frac{1}{2}$  inches (787 mm) where a handrail is installed on one side and 27 inches (698 mm) where handrails are provided on both sides.

**Exception:** The width of spiral stairways shall be in accordance with Section R311.7.10.1.

**R311.7.2 Headroom.** The headroom in stairways shall be not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm) measured vertically from the sloped line adjoining the tread nosing or from the floor surface of the landing or platform on that portion of the stairway.

**R311.7.5 Stair treads and risers.** Stair treads and risers shall meet the requirements of this section. For the purposes of this section, dimensions and dimensioned surfaces shall be exclusive of carpets, rugs or runners.

**R311.7.5.1 Risers.** The riser height shall be not more than  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches (210 mm). The riser shall be measured vertically between leading edges of the adjacent treads. The greatest riser height within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (9.5 mm). Risers shall be vertical or sloped from the underside of the nosing of the tread above at an angle not more than 30 degrees (0.51 rad) from the vertical. Open risers are permitted provided that the openings located more than 30 inches (762 mm), as measured vertically, to the floor or grade below do not permit the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

### Exceptions:

1. The opening between adjacent treads is not limited on spiral stairways.
2. The riser height of spiral stairways shall be in accordance with Section R311.7.10.1.

**R311.7.5.2 Treads.** The tread depth shall be not less than 9 inches (229 mm). The tread depth shall be measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads and at a right angle to the tread's leading edge. The greatest tread depth within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (9.5 mm).

**R311.7.5.3 Nosings.** The radius of curvature at the nosing shall be not greater than  $\frac{9}{16}$  inch (14 mm). A nosing projection not less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (19 mm) and not more than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (32 mm) shall be provided on stairways with solid risers. The greatest nosing projection shall not exceed the smallest nosing projection by more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (9.5 mm) between two stories, including the nosing at the level of floors and landings. Beveling of nosings shall not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm).

**Exception:** A nosing projection is not required where the tread depth is not less than 11 inches (279 mm).

**R311.7.5.4 Exterior plastic composite stair treads.** Plastic composite exterior stair treads shall comply with the provisions of this section and Section R507.3.

**R311.7.6 Landings for stairways.** There shall be a floor or landing at the top and bottom of each stairway. The width perpendicular to the direction of travel shall be not less than the width of the flight served. Landings of shapes other than square or rectangular shall be permitted provided that the depth at the walk line and the total area is not less than that of a quarter circle with a radius equal to the required landing width. Where the stairway has a straight run, the depth in the direction of travel shall be not less than 36 inches (914 mm).

**Exception:** A floor or landing is not required at the top of an interior flight of stairs, including stairs in an enclosed garage, provided that a door does not swing over the stairs.

**R507.3.3 Decay resistance.** Plastic composite deck boards, stair treads, guards and handrails containing wood, cellulosic or other biodegradable materials shall be decay resistant in accordance with ASTM D7032.

**R507.3.4 Termite resistance.** Where required by Section 318, plastic composite deck boards, stair treads, guards and handrails containing wood, cellulosic or other biodegradable materials shall be termite resistant in accordance with ASTM D7032.

**507.3.5 Installation of plastic composites.** Plastic composite deck boards, stair treads, guards and handrails shall be installed in accordance with this code and the manufacturer's instructions.

TABLE R507.2  
DECK LEDGER CONNECTION TO BAND JOIST<sup>a,b</sup>  
(Deck live load = 40 psf, deck dead load = 10 psf, snow load  $\leq$  40 psf)

CONNECTION DETAILS	JOIST SPAN						
	6' and less	6'1" to 8'	8'1" to 10'	10'1" to 12'	12'1" to 14'	14'1" to 16'	16'1" to 18'
	On-center spacing of fasteners						
$\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter lag screw with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch maximum sheathing <sup>a,d</sup>	30	23	18	15	13	11	10
$\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter bolt with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch maximum sheathing <sup>d</sup>	36	36	34	29	24	21	19
$\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter bolt with 1-inch maximum sheathing <sup>e</sup>	36	36	29	24	21	18	16

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 foot = 304.8 mm, 1 pound per square foot = 0.0479 kPa.

a. Ledgers shall be flashed in accordance with Section R703.4 to prevent water from contacting the house band joist.

b. Snow load shall not be assumed to act concurrently with live load.

c. The tip of the lag screw shall fully extend beyond the inside face of the band joist.

d. Sheathing shall be wood structural panel or solid sawn lumber.

e. Sheathing shall be permitted to be wood structural panel, gypsum board, fiberboard, lumber or foam sheathing. Up to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thickness of stacked washers shall be permitted to substitute for up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of allowable sheathing thickness where combined with wood structural panel or lumber sheathing.

TABLE 507.2.1  
PLACEMENT OF LAG SCREWS AND BOLTS IN DECK LEDGERS AND BAND JOISTS

MINIMUM END AND EDGE DISTANCES AND SPACING BETWEEN ROWS				
	TOP EDGE	BOTTOM EDGE	ENDS	ROW SPACING
Ledger <sup>a</sup>	2 inches <sup>d</sup>	$\frac{3}{4}$ inch	2 inches <sup>b</sup>	$1\frac{5}{8}$ inches <sup>b</sup>
Band Joist <sup>c</sup>	$\frac{3}{4}$ inch	2 inches	2 inches <sup>b</sup>	$1\frac{5}{8}$ inches <sup>b</sup>

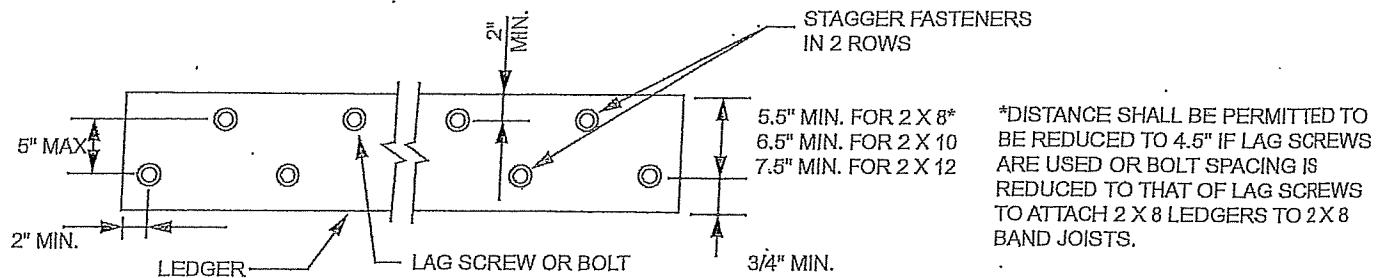
For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

a. Lag screws or bolts shall be staggered from the top to the bottom along the horizontal run of the deck ledger in accordance with Figure R507.2.1(1).

b. Maximum 5 inches.

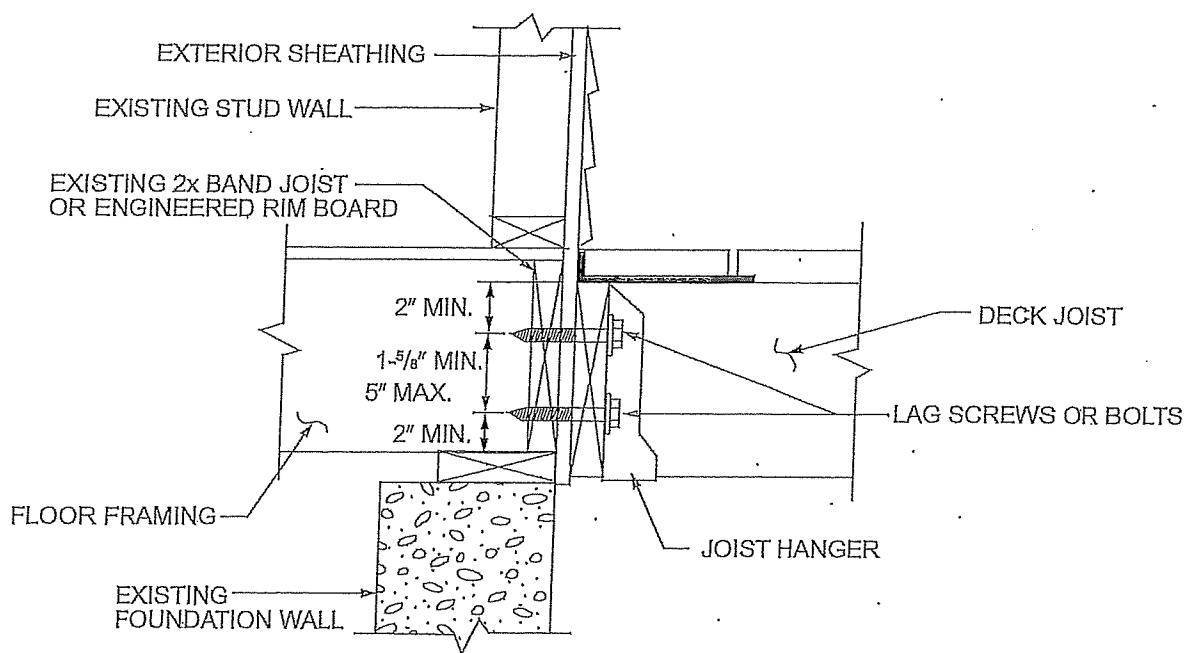
c. For engineered rim joists, the manufacturer's recommendations shall govern.

d. The minimum distance from bottom row of lag screws or bolts to the top edge of the ledger shall be in accordance with Figure R507.2.1(1).



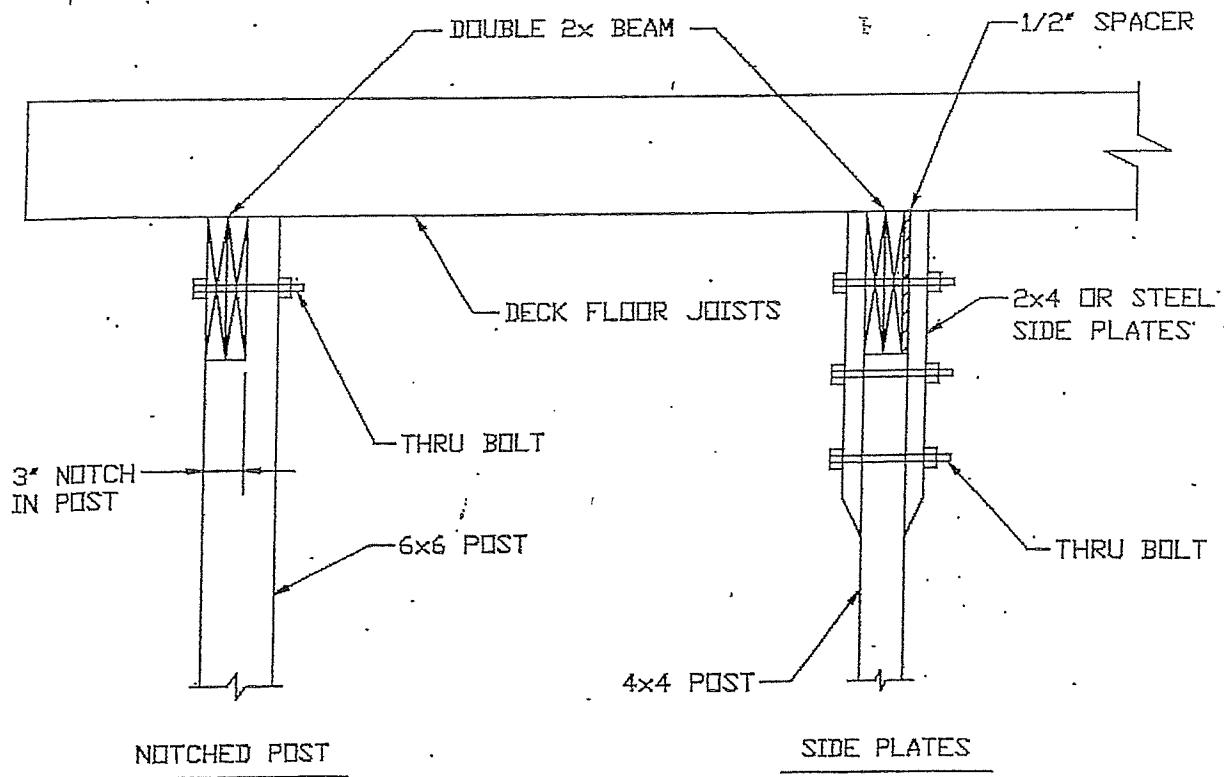
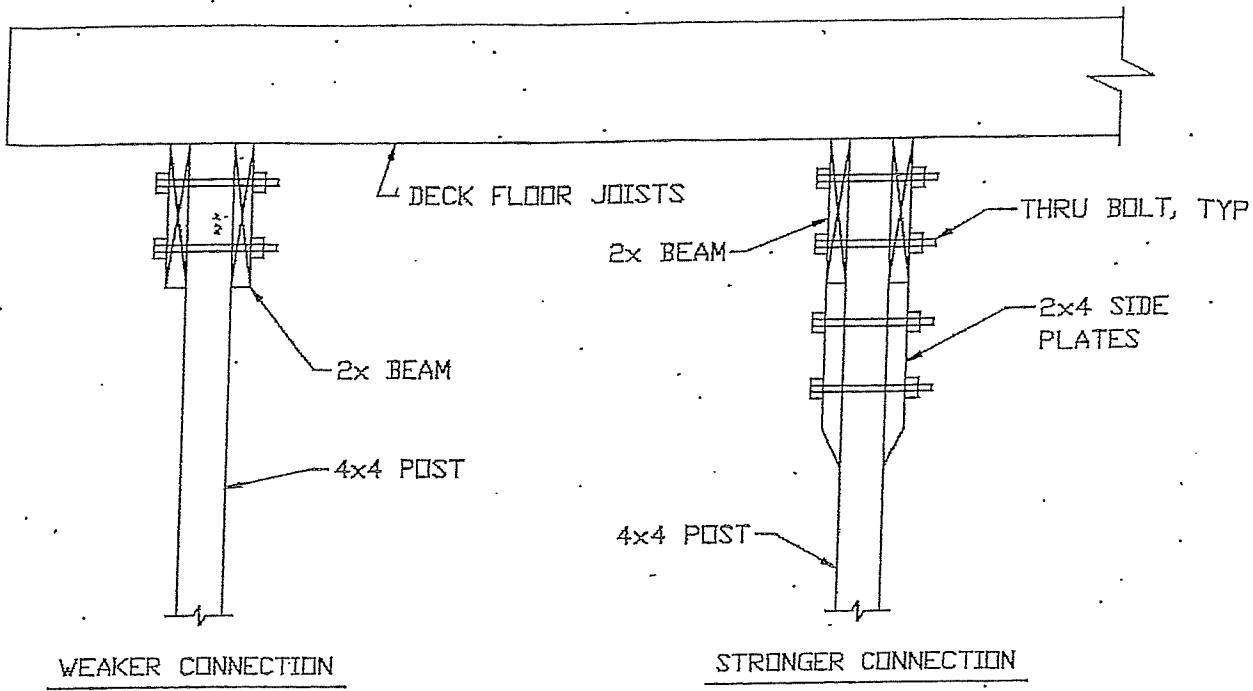
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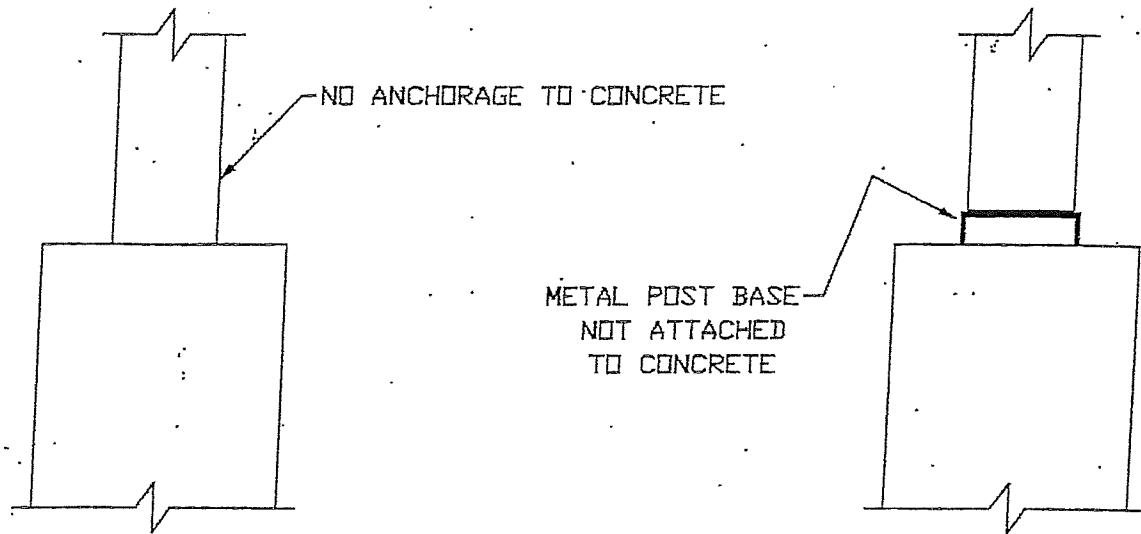
FIGURE R507.2.1(1)  
PLACEMENT OF LAG SCREWS AND BOLTS IN LEDGERS



For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

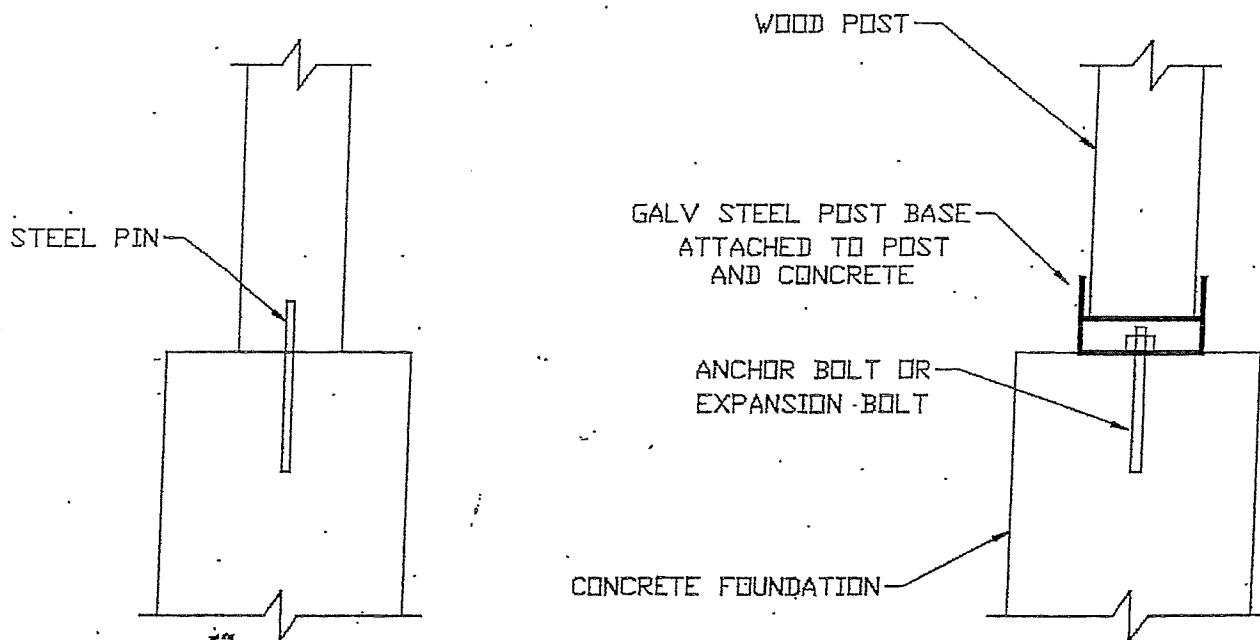
FIGURE R507.2.1(2)  
PLACEMENT OF LAG SCREWS AND BOLTS IN BAND JOISTS





WRONG

WRONG



CORRECT

IF NO UPLIFT

CORRECT

RESISTS UPLIFT

GENERAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR DECIRS TO OBTAIN PERMIT

2 COPIES OF PLANS REQUIRED  
2 COPIES OF HOUSE SURVEY  
TO SCALE

## EXISTING HOUSES SHOW JOIST HANGERS

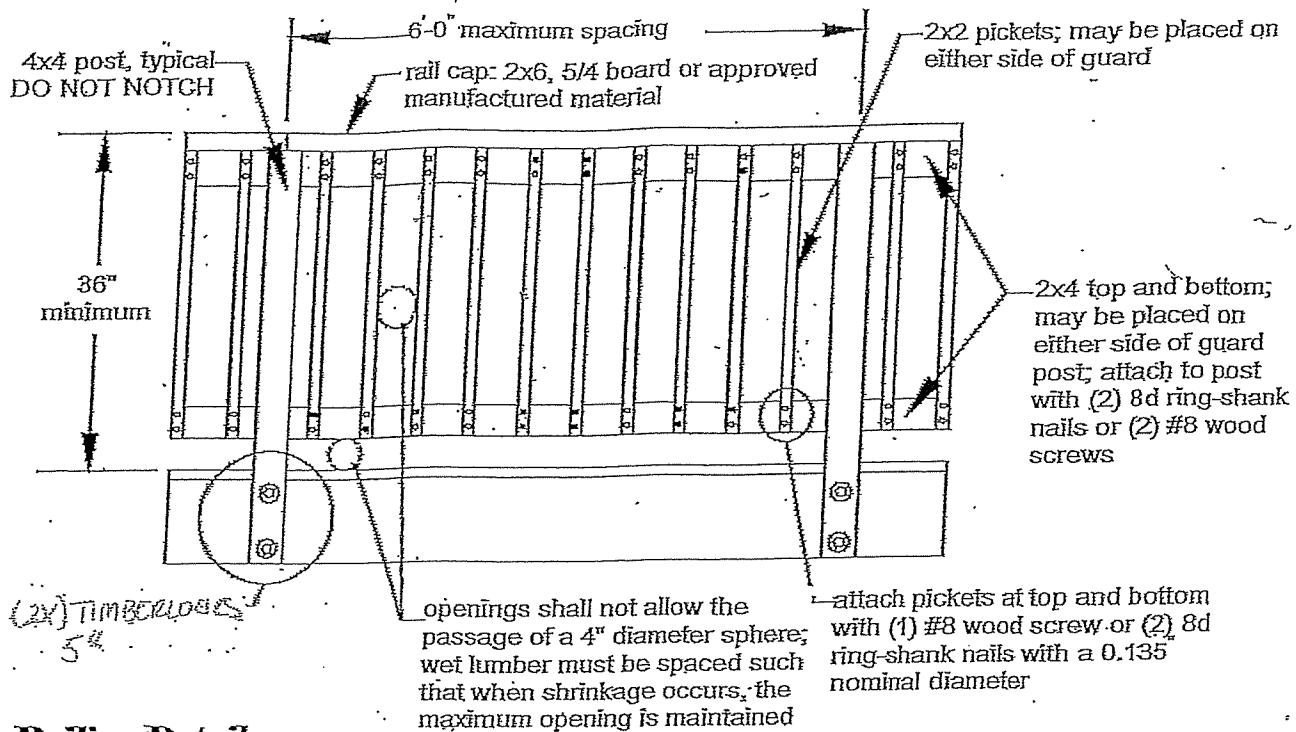
SHOW LOCATION	OF STAIRS
SHOW TYPE OF DECKING	
SHOW SIZE & SPACING OF FLOOR JOISTS	
INSTALL FLASHING AT LEDGER	LAG BOLT LEDGER TO HOUSE

The screenshot shows a CAD software interface with a 3D model of a handle. A callout box is pointing to a specific feature with the text 'HANDLE WIDT' and '24" MAX'. The software interface includes various toolbars and a status bar at the bottom.

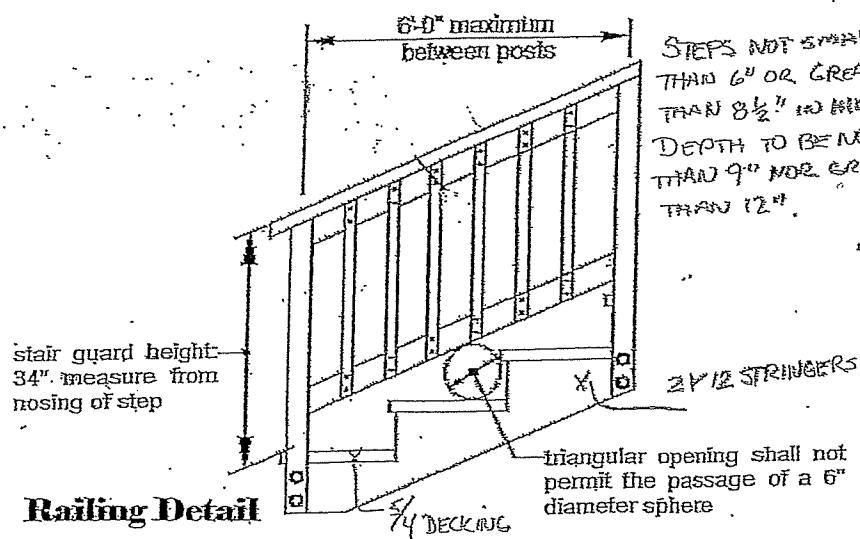
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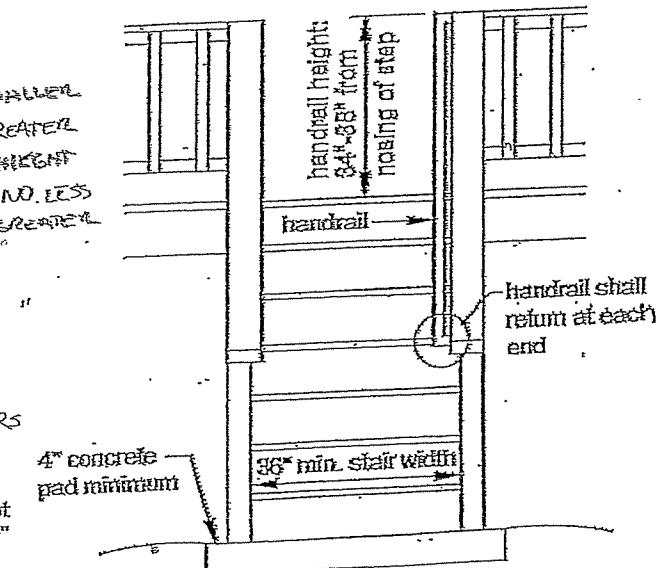
# Deck Details



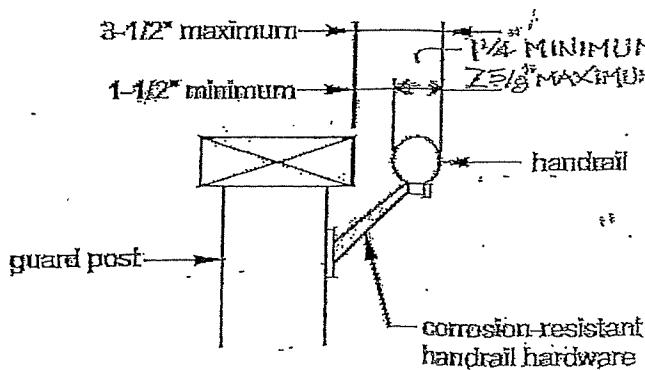
## Railing Detail



## Railing Detail



## Railing Detail



## Handrail Detail