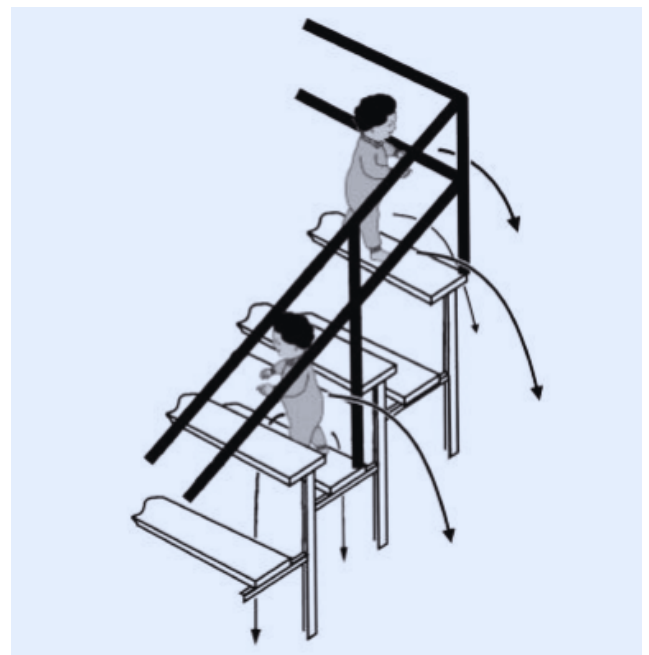


Steps to help prevent falls from bleachers include:

- Provide guardrails where the height of the bleachers' footboard, seat board, or aisle is 30 inches or more above the floor or ground.
- Guardrails should be at least 42 in above the leading edge of the adjacent footboard, seat board, or aisle.
- Guardrails should prevent the passage of a 4-inch sphere, which represents the approximate size of a baby's head.
- Favor picket fence (vertical) guardrail designs as they discourage children from climbing over them.
- If in-fill guardrail members allow footholds, limit maximum openings to 1.75 inches.
- If the bleachers are against a wall as high as the guardrail height recommended, a guardrail is not needed if space between the bleachers & wall will not allow passage of a 4-inch sphere.

Steps to help prevent falls through bleachers:

- The 4-inch sphere concept also applies to risers protecting the space above footboards & below seat boards, where the footboard is 30 in or greater above the ground or floor.
- According to the CPSC, rigid materials should be used to close openings between seating components, rather than chain link or other fencing material.



Inadequate guardrails & openings that permit falls

Bleacher inspection, maintenance & additional consideration:

- Per the CPSC, bleachers should be inspected at least quarterly & any problems noted should be remedied immediately.
- A qualified person or firm should inspect bleachers every 2 years at minimum & provide a written “fit for use” certification at that time.
- Records of inspections & any maintenance should be maintained.
- If the structure is undergoing a retrofit, consider adding non-skid surfaces, handrails, aisles & other features that may assist in accessibility & egress.



Up To Standards

Out of Date



Material on these pages derived from the U.S. CPSC’s Guidelines for Retrofitting Bleachers which can be found at <https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/330.pdf> for more information.