Building Code Clarifications - 33 Safety during Construction

33.1 (13- 124-320) Stair railings and guardrails

Per Section (13-124-320), guards shall be required at every point of danger including at all edges of every floor, balcony, mezzanine or other space used or intended for human occupancy which is at a height of more than 2'-0" above the floor, ground or pavement directly below.

Questions have arisen whether guardrails set at 42" are required at the stairs in addition to the 34" – 38" handrails set.

Only the handrail set is required inside a typical enclosed stairs and the handrails need not be extended to 42" to meet the guardrail requirements. Guardrails are only required at the stair landings when the stairs are open or when the stair landings are unusually larger inside an enclosed stairs.