

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

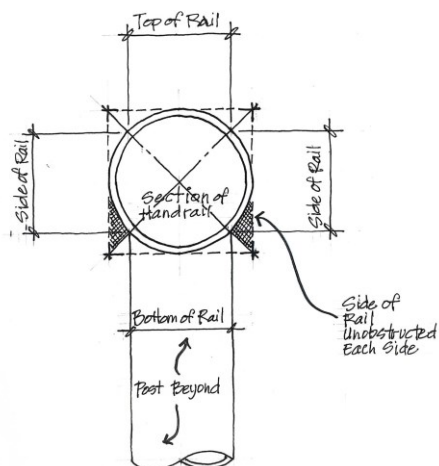
Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all public buildings, facilities and sites constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (2004 ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-216, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: DCAB 2014-01: How can the gripping surface extents/limits along the sides and bottom of handrails with circular and non-circular cross sections be defined to comply with ADAAG sections 505.6 and 505.7?

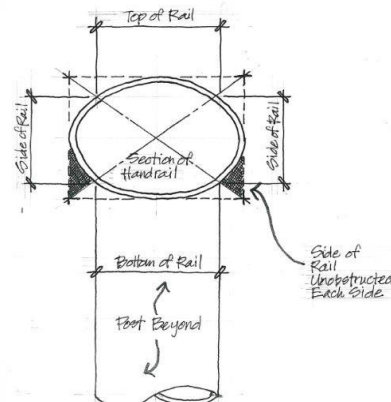
Summary: Many common handrail designs typically use 1 ½ inch or 1 ¼ inch diameter galvanized pipes. Occasionally a non-circular section, e.g. rectangular, tubular, elliptical or custom fabricated irregular cross section is selected. The 2004 ADAAG Section 505.6 prohibits handrails from being obstructed along their sides but does not define the term “side” relative to the gripping surface.

To determine the sides of a handrail, inscribe the handrail cross section within a quadrilateral figure and subdivide the section into quarters by connecting the corners of the quadrilateral. Thus, the resulting quadrants now describe the margins of the top, bottom and sides of the handrail section.

Where non-circular irregular cross section handrail designs are used, ADAAG Figure 505.7.2 Handrail Non-Circular Cross Section is referenced to identify the limits of a gripping surface’s minimum and maximum perimeter dimension and a maximum cross section dimension.



See 2010 ADA Standards 505.6
re: Gripping Surface



See 2010 ADA Standards 505.7.2
re: Handrail Non-Circular Cross Section

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG Sections 505.6 and 505.7

The gripping surface along the sides of handrail with circular and non-circular cross sections may be defined as the subdivided cross section quadrants that are not the top or bottom of the handrail section. Where handrails of a non-circular irregular cross section design are used, the limits of a gripping surface shall comply with Figure 505.7.2.

[Ruling: 01/21/2016] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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