



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

To: Owners/Operators of Public Pools Located in Orange County

Subject: Handrails at Public Pools

Environmental Health is charged with conducting State mandated inspections of public pools, such as those located at hotel/motels, apartments, and townhouse/condominiums. During routine inspections of these public pools, Environmental Health staff has observed that occasionally handrails at the steps of some pools are non-compliant. You have received this Notice because our staff has observed that your pool is one of those with non-compliant handrails. This is a potentially hazardous condition for those people utilizing the pool. Slips and falls are among the most common type of accident that occurs around pools. Non-compliant handrails tend to increase the likelihood of an injury.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Section 3110B.3, requires a handrail to be installed at all steps entering into a pool. Environmental Health has found that, occasionally, handrails have been removed and not replaced or not replaced properly during deck repairs or replastering and in some cases the handrail was never installed correctly when the pool was first constructed. Regardless of the reason for the non-compliant handrail, all handrails must be installed correctly as soon as possible. All handrail installations must conform to local building codes and have necessary approvals from the local building authorities. Environmental Health staff will conduct a reinspection in six months from the date this Notice was issued to verify that the non-compliant handrails have been installed correctly.

The following criteria and diagrams for handrails are provided to assist you in the installation of your handrail:

- The handrail must extend from the deck to a point that is within 12 inches of the riser on the bottom step.
- The upper railing surface must not be less than 28 inches or more than 34 inches above the deck and tread of each step.
- The clearance between the handrail and a step riser shall be at least 3 inches. (Applies only when Diagram 1 is utilized)

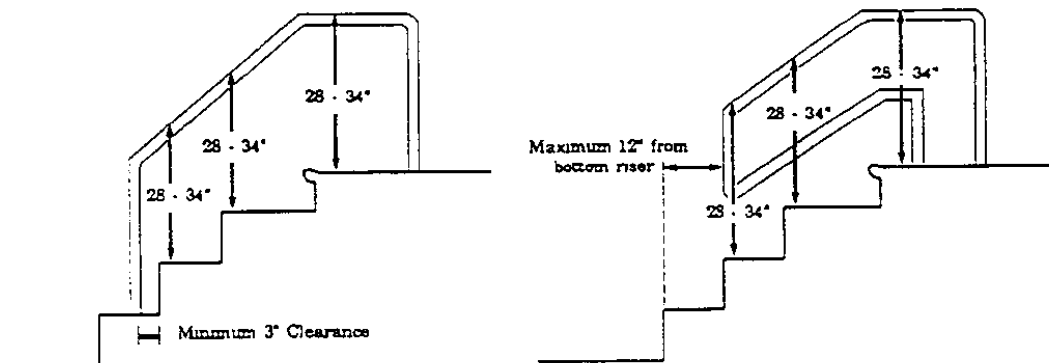


Diagram 1

Diagram 2

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your Environmental Health Specialist or Environmental Health at (714) 433-6000.

REV. 9/1/09 HANDRAILS NOTICE/infobulletins