

# City and Borough of Sitka

PUBLIC SERVICES

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City and Borough of Sitka Building Department

## Mezzanines - guard and stair requirements

Policy #04-03

**Effective Date:** May 26, 2004

**Purpose:** To establish uniform standards defining when guards and/or stairs are required on mezzanines.

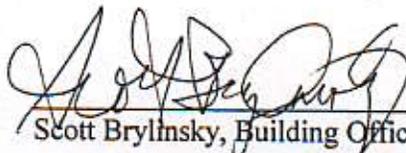
**Background:** The International Building Code requires that mezzanines be provided both stairs and guardrails. The code does not provide for exceptions. This creates a practical difficulty due to the small size of many mezzanines in local construction practices. For instance, a floor/ceiling over a bathroom in a high-ceilinged metal building may be only a few dozen square feet in size. A stair to this mezzanine would occupy more space than the mezzanine itself, and would likely make little practical contribution to safety because limited usable space is accessed.

The IBC also requires guards on mezzanines and industrial equipment platforms. Small spaces are unlikely to have personnel working or standing on them. Guards on such small platforms make little practical contribution to safety of personnel.

**Policy:**

1. Guards shall not be required on mezzanines less than 100 square feet in size.
2. Stairs to mezzanines shall not be required if the mezzanine is less than 300 square feet in size.

Approved:

  
Scott Brylinsky, Building Official

5-26-04  
Date