

CHAPTER 3 BUILDING PLANNING

SECTION R308.4, ITEM 10 IRC Interpretation No. 09-08 2006 Edition Issued: 06-12-2008 RE_06_09_08

R308.4 Hazardous locations. The following shall be considered specific hazardous locations for the purposes of glazing:

Items 1 through 9 not shown.

10. Glazing adjacent to stairways, landings and ramps within 36 inches (914 mm) horizontally of a walking surface when the exposed surface of the glass is less than 60 inches (1524 mm) above the plane of the adjacent walking surface.
11. Glazing adjacent to stairways within 60 inches (1524 mm) horizontally of the bottom tread of a stairway in any direction when the exposed surface of the glass is less than 60 inches (1524 mm) above the nose of the tread.

Exception: The following products, materials and uses are exempt from the above hazardous locations:

Exceptions 1 through 4 not shown.

5. Glazing in Section R308.4, Items 7 and 10, when a protective bar is installed on the accessible side(s) of the glazing 36 inches \pm 2 inches (914 mm \pm 51 mm) above the floor. The bar shall be capable of withstanding a horizontal load of 50 pounds per linear foot (730 N/m) without contacting the glass and be a minimum of 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) in height.

Exceptions 6, 7, and 8 not shown.

9. Safety glazing in Section R308.4, Items 10 and 11, is not required where:
 - 9.1. The side of a stairway, landing or ramp has a guardrail or handrail, including balusters or in-fill panels, complying with the provisions of Sections 1013 and 1607.7 of the *International Building Code*; and
 - 9.2. The plane of the glass is more than 18 inches (457 mm) from the railing; or
 - 9.3. When a solid wall or panel extends from the plane of the adjacent walking surface to 34 inches (863 mm) to 36 inches (914 mm) above the floor and the construction at the top of that wall or panel is capable of withstanding the same horizontal load as the protective bar.

Exception 10 not shown.

REFERENCED SECTIONS:

International Residential Code, Chapter 2

R201.3 Terms defined in other codes. Where terms are not defined in this code such terms shall have meanings ascribed to them as in other code publications of the International Code Council.

International Building Code, Chapter 10

1002.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

STAIR. A change in elevation, consisting of one or more risers.

STAIRWAY. One or more flights of stairs, either exterior or interior, with the necessary landings and platforms connecting them, to form a continuous and uninterrupted passage from one level to another.



Q: In accordance with the provisions of Section R201.3 of the *International Residential Code*, a stairway, as defined in the *International Building Code*, is a change in elevation consisting of one or more risers. Is a stairway consisting of

a single riser considered a hazardous location for the purposes of glazing and therefore subject to the provisions of Section R308.4, Item 10 of the *International Residential Code*?

A: Yes. A single riser, by definition, is a stairway. Therefore, glazing adjacent to a single-riser stairway must comply with the applicable provisions for a hazardous location, unless specifically exempt in the code.
