



# BLEACHER INSPECTIONS

Inspections are key to bleacher safety. Failure to inspect your bleachers can do harm to your guests and expose your district to unnecessary liability.

## 2000 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code recommends:

- Annual inspections and maintenance of bleacher/grandstand or folding/telescopic seating required to be provided by owner to ensure safety conditions. Biennially, the inspection is to be performed by a professional engineer, registered architect or individual certified by the manufacturer.

## Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends:

- Bleachers be inspected at least quarterly (by district staff) to identify any structural damage or degradation that could compromise safety. The biennial inspection should be performed by a professional engineer, registered architect or individual certified by the manufacturer and provide written certification that the bleachers are fit for use.
- Guardrails should be present on the backs and portions of the open ends of bleachers where the footboard, seat board, or aisle is 30 inches or more above the floor or ground below.
  - *The CPSC publication **Guidelines for Retrofitting Bleachers** (<https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/330.pdf>) may help you in evaluating and modifying your bleachers to meet these guidelines.*



## SDIS recommends:

- **Bleachers five tiers high or less:** District staff should inspect quarterly and document findings.
- **Bleachers five tiers high or more:** In addition to quarterly inspections by district staff, biennial inspections by a professional engineer, registered architect, or individual certified by the manufacturer need to be completed showing the bleachers are fit for use.



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The following is a list of items/conditions that can be used to create a checklist template for the quarterly documented inspections.

## Visually and physically check:

- **Nuts and bolts** – Are any missing, loose or protruding?
- **Guardrails** – Are any loose or missing?
- **Plank or railing end caps** – Are any loose or missing?
- **Wooden planks** – Are any areas worn out or splintered?
- Are there any **hazardous protrusions** or **sharp edges**?
- **Spacing between rows** – Is spacing even when seating is in the “stacked” or “closed” position?
- **Wall ties** – Are ties securely attached to both the wall and the unit? Floor-attached units and floor anchors should be tight and firm.
- **Footboard support brackets** – Do any have broken welds?
- **Footboard support channels and support post guides** – Lubricate channels and guides with a good grade of high-temperature bearing lubricant.
- **Visible rust** – Remove rust and touch up affected areas with paint to match original paint.
- **Slide stop on footboard support arm** – Does the slide stop keep the unit from extending beyond the normal position, thereby preventing structural damage?
- **Rowlocks** – Are any bent or missing? They should engage and move freely.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Risk Management Department at 800-285-5461 or [riskmanagement@sdao.com](mailto:riskmanagement@sdao.com).

Administered by Special Districts Association of Oregon

Toll-Free: 800-285-5461 | Phone: 503-371-8667

Email: [sdao@sdao.com](mailto:sdao@sdao.com)

[www.sdao.com](http://www.sdao.com)