

# BLEACHERS AND GRANDSTANDS

Bleachers provide tiered or stepped seating for the public. They come in various configurations and sizes. They can be portable, telescopic/folding, temporary or permanent; and can be made of wood, metal, plastic, concrete or a combination of materials.

When considering bleacher safety, regular inspection and maintenance should be performed and recorded. Special attention should be paid to the Minnesota Bleacher Safety Act, which requires certified inspections for bleachers greater than 55 inches in height.

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## MINNESOTA BLEACHER SAFETY ACT

Bleachers greater than 55 inches in height must be formally inspected by a state certified building official or state-licensed design professional. The bleacher footboards and guardrails must be re-inspected every five years, and a structural inspection must be made at least every 10 years or per local municipal requirements if more stringent.

The completed certificate of compliance, signed by either of the above professionals, should be obtained and submitted to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

In addition to maintaining the sound condition as per the inspection features above, the design of bleachers subject to the Minnesota Bleacher Safety Act must conform to the following:

- No bleacher openings should exceed 4 inches. This includes the open spaces between bleacher footboards, seats and guardrails.
- Guardrails should protect bleachers at heights above 30 inches. The top of the guardrail should be at least 42 inches above the leading edge of the adjacent footboard, seat board or aisle.
- Guardrails should discourage climbing and be designed to prevent accidents. If chain-link fencing is used, it should be constructed of 2-inch nominal chain link at least 11 gauge in size.

## ITEMS FOR REGULAR INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Bleachers and grandstands should be inspected regularly, particularly paying attention to the following concerns:

- Seats and handrails should be free from splinters and protruding hardware.
- Metal components should be free of interior or exterior rust that can weaken the structure.
- Steps should be slip resistant.
- Supports or brackets should be sound with no broken or deteriorating components.
- Foundations and anchors should show no evidence of deterioration or degradation.
- Floorboards should show no evidence of rotten or missing boards.
- Sharp corners or edges near walkways should be removed or protected.

## Resources



These resources provide more information about the Minnesota Bleacher Safety Act:

- MCIT resource "Complying with the Minnesota Bleacher Safety Act," [MCIT.org/resource/](http://MCIT.org/resource/)
- Department of Labor and Industry Minnesota Bleacher Safety Act Certificate of Compliance, [MN.gov/elicense/](http://MN.gov/elicense/)