



SAFETY • SERVICE • SAVINGS
A TRUST BUILT FOR STUDENTS

BLEACHER INSPECTIONS

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Inspections are a key to bleacher safety. Failure to inspect your bleachers may cause harm to your students and guests and expose your district to unnecessary liability.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSPECTIONS

2016 NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) 102 [LIFE SAFETY CODE](#)

“The owner shall provide for not less than annual inspection and required maintenance of each grandstand/bleacher to ensure safe conditions; at least biennially, the inspection shall be performed by a professional engineer or registered architect; where required by the authority having jurisdiction, the owner shall provide certification that both inspections have been performed.”

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC)

“Bleachers should 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.”

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- Bleachers five tiers high or less need to be inspected by district staff quarterly with documented findings.
- Bleachers more than five tiers high need to be inspected by district staff quarterly with documented findings, in addition to biennially by a professional engineer, registered architect or individual certified by the manufacturer, showing the bleachers are fit for use.

INSPECTION CHECKLIST

The following items/conditions 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.

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