

# Climbable Railings, “Ladder Effect.”

After a three year study of climbable guards (railings), including 13 open meetings, the International Code Council’s (ICC) Code Technology Committee (CTC) concluded in its May 21, 2008 report that “the most current and thorough documentation available shows no indication that a problem exists [with climbable guards] and that there has not been sufficient justification established to mandate a higher level of climbability restriction on guards than what is currently required in the 2006 ICC codes...” Current ICC codes do not prohibit climbable railings.

The report also states, among other findings, that it is “most likely undesirable to render any environment completely ‘safe’ from children’s climbing.” Creating a barrier that is not possible to climb may actually create a safety hazard in the case of an extreme emergency, such as a fire, where the only means of escape may be to climb over a railing.

The complete report is available at:  
<https://www.railfx.net/resource/climbable-guards-report/>



1002 East F Street, Tacoma, WA 98421  
206.453.1123 | Fax: 866.802.1690  
support@railfx.net  
www.railfx.net