



## Handrail Grip Size Requirements as Outlined In the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC)

### R311.7.8.4 Continuity

Handrails shall be continuous for the full length of the flight, from a point directly above the top riser of the flight to a point directly above the lowest riser. Handrail ends shall be returned toward a wall, guard walking surface continuous to itself, or terminate to a post.

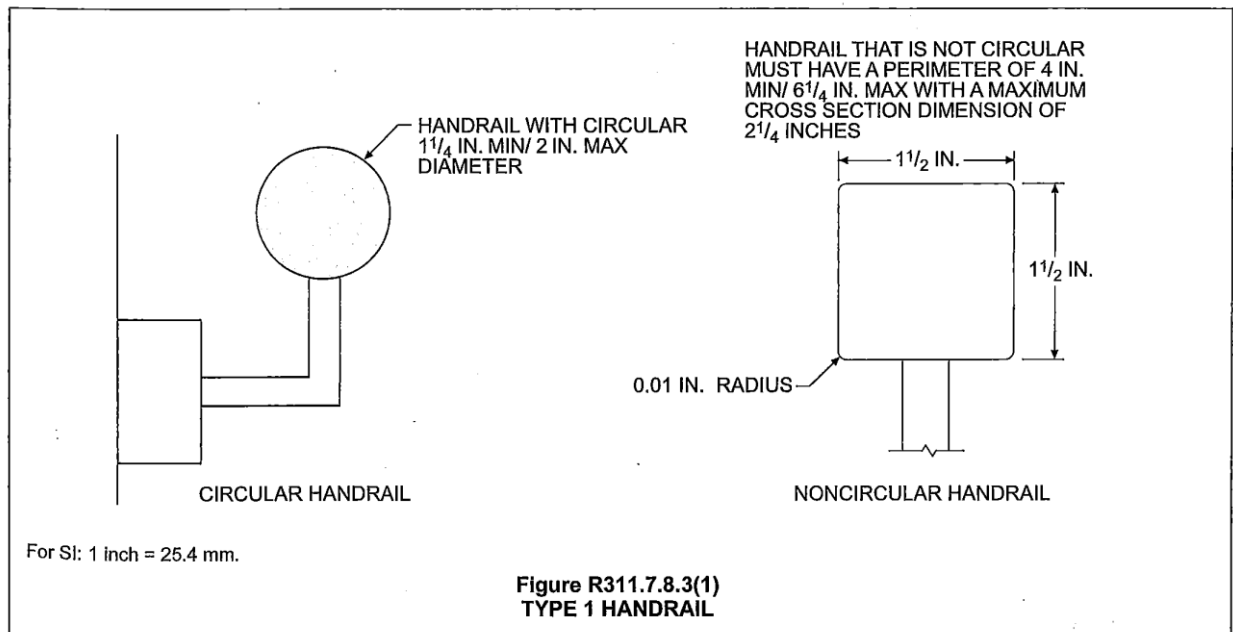
Exceptions:

1. Handrail continuity shall be permitted to be interrupted by a newel post at a turn in a flight with winders, at a landing, or over the lowest tread.
2. A volute, turnout or starting easing shall be allowed to terminate over the lowest tread and over the top landing.

### R311.7.8.5 Grip Size

All required handrails shall be of one of the following types or provide equivalent graspability.

1. (Type I) Handrails with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of at least 1 ¼ inches and not greater than 2 inches. If the handrail is not circular it shall have a perimeter dimension of not less than 4 inches and not greater than 6 ¼ inches with a maximum cross section dimension of 2 ¼ inches.



2. (Type II) Handrails with a perimeter greater than  $6\frac{1}{4}$  inches shall provide a graspable finger recess area on both sides of the profile. The finger recess shall begin within  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of not less than  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch within  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for not less than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch to a level that is not less than  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches below the tallest portion of the profile. The width of the handrail above the recess shall be not less than  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches and not more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.01 inches.

