



Building Information

Glass Guard Requirements

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide a consistent interpretation for the installation of glass guard rails installed in commercial and residential applications as outlined in part 4 and section 9.8 of the 2018 BC Building Code.

All required guards and their assemblies shall be designed to conform to the requirements outlined in the 2018 BC Building Code. Structural glass guards are required to be certified by a registered professional.

Where there is **no** top rail to take the guard load or no top edge protection, the glass guard will need to meet both a concentrated load and/or a general continuous load requirement. There is no prescribed requirement for glass guards in part 9, hence glass guards fall under Part 4 of the 2018 BC Building Code and a registered professional is required.

Where there **is** a top rail to take the guard load, there are still requirements for the glass to have a prescribed concentrated load. Since there is nothing in the code on post spacing, the building official will determine on site if the glass guard requires certification from a registered professional.

Please refer to these sections of the 2018 BC Building Code for additional information relating to guard design for buildings:

- 4.1.5.14. - Loads on guards and handrails (for part 3 buildings).
- 9.8.8.2. - Loads on guards.
- 9.8.8.3. - Height of guards.
- 9.8.8.5. - Openings in guards.
- 9.8.8.6. - Design of guards to not facilitate climbing.
- 9.8.8.7. - Glass in guards.

Please refer to the following publications for additional information relating to guard design for buildings:

- CAN/CGSB 12-20M Structural Design of Glass for Buildings
- EGBC Professional Practice Guidelines Designing Guards for Buildings

For any other information please contact the building department at [604-886-2274](tel:604-886-2274) or email us at building@gibsons.ca