



# Florida Fire Marshals And Inspectors Association

## Informal Interpretation

**Date:** November 12, 2009

**NFPA Document Number:** NFPA 101

**Edition:** 2009

**Paragraph Reference:** 7.2.2.4.4

**If this involves an actual situation, explain briefly:**

We are completing a new commercial building. We have installed the stair handrails within the range of 34" to 38" to top of rail. However, along the run of the stairs, the handrails may vary from 37 1/2" at the top step to 36" at the bottom step as an example. NFPA 101 section 7.2.2.4.4 states the required range of 34" to 38" only. However, our inspector has raised a concern and states this does not comply because it is not a uniform dimension.

**Question** (*should be worded so that it can be answered with either "Yes" or "No"*):

Is our current condition in compliance with the referenced code section?

**Answer:**

Yes.

NFPA 101, 2006 7.2.2.4.1 allows for a variance from the top of tread (measurements from the leading edge of the tread) which shall not exceed 38 inches or be under 34 inches.

Committee Answer Submitted by,

Wes Hayes, Chair  
Informal Fire Code Interpretation Committee