

Accessible Ramp Vignette (3.1 & 4.0)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q.. The code says that rails can extend into the required ramp or stair width up to 4". Does that apply to both sides (4" total) or each side (8" total).

A. This applies to both sides for a total of 8" into the required width....UNLESS the program specifies a *clear* width (unlikely).

Q. The drawing shows a pair of 3' existing exit doors. Do I have to match these with new doors?

A. No. Existing exit double doors do not require double doors **upstream**. This vignette does not include calculating egress width, and we have no way of knowing why there are double doors in place. It could be just for aesthetics. IF you have the space and will sleep better while waiting for your exam results, adding the extra door will not hurt you, IMO. Note matching the existing doors with new ones is impossible in the 4.0 practice vignette.

Q. Regarding the new door, the code says to provide a min. 32" clear opening. Does that mean I can use a 32" door?

A. No. The key word is "clear". Doors have thickness and hardware. Frames have stops. To get a 32" clear opening, you need a 36" door. If you draw a pair of doors, at least one of them must be a 36" door or larger.

Q. There is only one command for drawing rails. Do I draw handrails and guardrails separately?

A. No. For this software they are the same element.

Q. How do I get rails to "clean up" or "join" where they intersect/meet?

A. You don't. The program isn't that sophisticated. Make sure they at least touch or overlap. Allowing centerlines of rails to meet seems to work just fine.

Q. Does the practice software have a timer like the real exam?

A. No.

Common Mistakes:

1. Incorrect landing heights. These elevations are used to calculate the slope of the ramp. You can easily fail because of an incorrect elevation on the landing(s).

2. Missing hand/guard rails. The code allows you to omit a hand rail on a ramp of 6" in height or less. There is no exception for guard rails. If one side is open (to a fall), you must provide the rail anyway.

3. Ramp/stair/rail that reduces the egress width of the existing corridor. NEVER DO THIS. Do not block off any part of the existing exit corridor. By code, placing the new required door and wall does not reduce the egress width of the corridor. Cutting it off with a ramp, stair or rail will.

4. Rails against walls. Leave a gap 2"+/- so that a person has the ability to grip the rail. Do the same on the open sides for consistency. **TIP** for drawing rail extensions: Instead of drawing sketch elements to find the min 12" extension, just draw them to the end of the ramp/stair. Note

the length of the rail at the bottom of the screen and then adjust them until they are 12" longer.
5. No need to draw 0" landings. NCARB knows where the floor is.