

## Bleacher Safety - What's Your Risk?

*Farnham Equipment Company has partnered with other industry leaders for a Panel Discussion led by Matt W. Chrispin, Superintendent of Fredericktown Local Schools to discuss bleacher safety and inspections. Our variety of panelists will highlight the importance of bleacher safety from multiple viewpoints, answer your questions and acknowledge your concerns.*

*This panel is led by Matt W. Chrispin, Superintendent of Fredericktown Local Schools and features:*

### **Farnham Equipment Company's Service Manager and International Code Council (ICC) member, Rocky Baker**

*For over 50 years, Farnham Equipment Company has been one of Ohio's leading providers of Bleachers, Grandstands, Telescoping Platforms, Fixed Seating and Athletic Equipment products to the educational and institutional communities. As manager of Farnham Equipment's Service and Maintenance operations, Rocky draws on decades of industry experience to provide customers with comprehensive maintenance solutions. Rocky's experience and direct relationships with manufacturers, engineers and architects insure that all inspections, repairs & up-grades are being performed properly. Rocky is dedicated to sharing his accumulated knowledge and continuous research on codes & state requirements with facility operators. The focus of Rocky's outreach is safety, regulatory compliance, limitation of risk/liability and the reduction in facility capital costs through increased product life cycles. Be it through a telephone call, site visit, email, newsletter or blog post, Rocky strives to make owners aware of what YOU can do to keep your community's bleachers safe.*

### **Hussey Seating Company's Dealer Service Manager, Mark Beaulieu**

*Hussey Seating Company is a worldwide leader in the manufacturing of telescoping bleachers and fixed seating systems. Mark is the Dealer Service Manager of Hussey Advantage, which is division of Hussey Seating Company dedicated to the renovation, repair, part sales and service of seating products. Mark works closely with Hussey Regional Service Centers specializing in the comprehensive inspection of telescopic platforms and bleachers throughout the North American market. Marks current focus is the development of Regional Service Centers throughout the United States. His knowledge of current codes, requirements and upgrade solutions is used to support educational facilities with all aspects of their seating needs in regards to code compliance, safety inspections, parts, repair and service.*

### **The Ohio School Plan's Director of Risk Management, Travis Thompson**

*The Ohio School Plan provides high quality, affordable, and innovative insurance and risk management solutions to Ohio public educational institutions and boards of developmental disabilities. In his role as Director of Risk Management, Travis provides operational risk management support, advice, and counsel to public municipalities, public schools and colleges and universities. Travis assists in the identification and correction of potential risks and hazards that may result in injury, loss, property damage or lawsuits. Travis facilitates regional and on-site training sessions and conducts presentations for conferences and individual clients.*

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## References

Route: Ohio Revised Code » Title [37] XXXVII HEALTH - SAFETY - MORALS

**3781.06 Public buildings to be safe and sanitary - definitions.**

(A)

(1) Any building that may be used as a place of resort, assembly, education, entertainment, lodging, dwelling, trade, manufacture, repair, storage, traffic, or occupancy by the public, any residential building, and all other buildings or parts and appurtenances of those buildings erected within this state, shall be so constructed, erected, equipped, and maintained that they shall be safe and sanitary for their intended use and occupancy.

(2) "Building" means any structure consisting of foundations, walls, columns, girders, beams, floors, and roof, or a combination of any number of these parts, with or without other parts or appurtenances.

(7) "Safe," with respect to a building, means it is free from danger or hazard to the life, safety, health, or welfare of persons occupying or frequenting it, or of the public and from danger of settlement, movement, disintegration, or collapse, whether such danger arises from the methods or materials of its construction or from equipment installed therein, for the purpose of lighting, heating, the transmission or utilization of electric current, or from its location or otherwise.

Route: \* Ohio Administrative Code

**4101.1 Board of Building Standards: Ohio Building Code**

**Chapter 4101:1-1 Administration**

**102.5 Referenced codes and standards.** When a reference is made within the building, mechanical, or plumbing codes to a federal statutory provision, an industry consensus standard, or any other technical publication, the specific date and title of the publication as well as the name and address of the promulgating agency are listed in Chapter 35 of the building code, Chapter 15 of the mechanical code, or Chapter 13 of the plumbing code.

The codes and standards referenced in the building, mechanical, and plumbing codes shall be considered part of the requirements of these codes as though the text were printed in this code, to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where differences occur between provisions of these codes and the referenced standards, the provisions of these codes shall apply.

**102.6 Partial invalidity.** In the event any part or provision of this code is held to be illegal or void, this shall not have the effect of making void or illegal any of the other parts or provisions thereof, and it shall be presumed that this code would have been adopted without such illegal or invalid parts or provisions.

**102.7 Existing structures.** The provisions of Chapter 34 shall control the alteration, repair, addition, maintenance, and change of occupancy of any existing structure.

The occupancy of any structure currently existing on the date of adoption of this code shall be permitted to continue without change provided there are no orders of the building official pending, no evidence of fraud, or no serious safety or sanitation hazard. When requested, such approvals shall be in the form of a "Certificate of Occupancy for an Existing Building" in accordance with section 111.2.

Buildings constructed in accordance with plans which have been approved prior to the effective date of this code are existing buildings.

**Chapter 4101:1-10 Means of Egress**

**4101:1-10-01 Means of egress.**

[Comment: When a reference is made within this rule to a federal statutory provision, an industry consensus standard, or any other technical publication, the specific date and title of the publication as well as the name and address of the promulgating agency are listed in rule 4101:1-35-01 of the Administrative Code. The application of the referenced standards shall be limited and as prescribed in section 102.5 of rule 4101:1-1-01 of the Administrative Code.]

scrolling down

**SECTION 1028**

**ASSEMBLY**

**1028.1 General.** Occupancies in Group A and assembly occupancies accessory to Group E which contain seats, tables, displays, equipment or other material shall comply with this section.

**1028.1.1 Bleachers.** Bleachers, grandstands and folding and telescopic seating, that are not building elements, shall comply with Chapters 1-4 of ICC 300 [2007].

Effective: 03/01/2013

R.C. 119.032 review dates: 11/01/2016

Promulgated Under: 119.03

Statutory Authority: 3781.10(A)

Rule Amplifies: 3781.10, 3781.11, 3791.04

Prior Effective Dates: 1/1/94, 7/1/95, 2/1/96, 3/1/98, 1/1/02, 3/1/05, 9/6/05, 7/1/07, 11/1/07, 11/1/11, 3/15/12

**Chapter 4101:1-34 Existing structures**

**4101:1-34-01 Existing buildings and structures.**

[Comment: When a reference is made within this rule to a federal statutory provision, an industry consensus standard, or any other technical publication, the specific date and title of the publication as well as the name and address of the promulgating agency are listed in rule 4101:1-35-01 of the Administrative Code. The application of the referenced standards shall be limited and as prescribed in section 102.5 of rule 4101:1-1-01 of the Administrative Code.]

**SECTION 3401**

**GENERAL**

**3401.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the maintenance, alteration, repair, addition and change of occupancy of existing structures

**3401.2 Maintenance.** Buildings, structures, equipment and parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition and in accordance with the condition(s) established in current and any previous plan approvals and certificates of occupancy. Devices or safeguards which are required by this code shall be maintained in conformance with the code edition under which installed. The owner or the owner's designated agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings and structures. To determine compliance with this subsection, the building official shall have the authority to require a building or structure to be inspected. The requirements of this chapter shall not provide the basis for removal or abrogation of fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures without approval of the building official.

The above excerpts are from the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code and can be found online for public use at <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/>. The main idea collectively stated by all codes is that facility operators must provide a safe environment without unnecessary hazardous risk. One may argue that owners are not required by law to make upgrades to current code standards (i.e. "grandfathered"). However, no operator should put themselves in the position of trying to defend a bleacher safety hazard as acceptable.

Arguably the best course of action for the safety of Ohio's students, spectators and community would be for the State of Ohio to adopt the current edition of the ICC 300 [2012] in its entirety, including Chapter 5. The 2012 version of ICC 300 is available for free online and provides broader definitions and guidelines. It answers the majority of the questions that are asked by facility operators and provides owners with the clear definition of what it truly takes to make your bleachers safe and hazard free. The ICC 300-2012 was approved August 17, 2011 and its first printing was December 2011.

[http://ecodes.biz/ecodes\\_support/free\\_resources/ICC\\_Standards/ICC\\_300-2012\\_Bleachers/ICC300-2012\\_main.html](http://ecodes.biz/ecodes_support/free_resources/ICC_Standards/ICC_300-2012_Bleachers/ICC300-2012_main.html)