



SISC BULLETIN

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS of CALIFORNIA

August 23, 1996

TO: District Superintendents of SISC II Member Districts

FROM: Catherine Wilson Jones, CSP
Coordinator, Safety and Loss Control

SUBJECT: Bleacher Inspections

As school begins, districts prepare to occupy facilities or use equipment that may have been unused throughout the summer. Before such facilities and/or equipment are placed back in service, the district should conduct inspections of the equipment to ensure they are safe for their intended use.

One area of concern is bleachers. Indoor and outdoor bleachers can present a risk to users if they are not properly maintained and in proper working order. Districts should be aware of the following when inspecting and repairing bleachers:

Indoor Bleachers

1. All motorized components should be tested to ensure they are operating properly. Motors should run smoothly without any bind or stress to the unit. Floor areas must be kept clear of debris and/or obstructions to ensure the assemblies operate properly.
2. Manual mechanisms should also be tested to ensure all the components are working properly and that the unit can be raised and lowered completely and smoothly.
3. The brake mechanism should be in place to help prohibit free rolling while in the extended position.
4. All structural members should be in good condition, free from any breaks, bends, irregularities, or missing components.
5. Foot boards and seating areas should be properly secured and free from cracks, splinters, and exposed screws or bolts.
6. Current building codes require handrails/guardrails for units more than 30 inches above the ground, which extend 42 inches from the rear of the seat boards or the top of the steps. Open guardrails must have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern such that a sphere 4 inches in diameter cannot pass through. Although older bleachers may not be subject to the current code, it is SISC's recommendation that all bleacher units have handrails/guardrails that meet the current requirements.

P. O. Box 1847 ♦ Bakersfield, CA 93303-1847 ♦ <http://www.kern.org/sisc/>
1300 17th Street - CITY CENTRE ♦ Bakersfield, CA ♦ (661) 636-4710 ♦ FAX (661) 636-4156

Outdoor Bleachers

1. All structural members should be intact, without any broken or missing components.
2. All welds should be free of flaws, breaks, or separations.
3. Foot boards and seating areas should be properly secured and free from cracks, splinters, and exposed screws or bolts.
4. Current building codes require handrails/guardrails for units more than 30 inches above the ground, which extend 42 inches from the rear of the seat boards or the top of the steps. All railings must be firmly secured, thereby preventing movement of the rail when subjected to loads. Open guardrails must have intermediate rails or an ornamental pattern such that a sphere 4 inches in diameter cannot pass through. Although older bleachers may not be subject to the current code, it is SISC's recommendation that all bleacher units have handrails/guardrails that meet the current requirements.

Because of the large number of users, it is critical to maintain bleacher units in a safe working order. Districts should have all of their bleacher units inspected on a regular basis (recommended annually). Necessary repairs should be made as soon as possible, especially structural repairs, which should be completed by the manufacturer if possible.

Please contact your SISC safety representative if you have any questions or if you would like assistance in conducting bleacher inspections.

CWJ:sh