



New Castle County Government Center  
87 Reads Way  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

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Date: **March 9, 2011**  
Subject: **Concentrated load for guards**  
References: **2006 International Building Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section 1607.7.1.1 (Concentrated load) in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the section of the 2006 International Building Code in question.

***Section 1607.7.1.1, Concentrated load. Handrail assemblies and guards shall be able to resist a single concentrated load of 200 pounds. Applied in any direction at any point along the top, and have attachment devices and supporting structure to transfer this loading to appropriate structural elements of the building. This load need not be assumed to act concurrently with the loads specified in the preceding paragraph.***

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**Question:** Section 1607.7.1.1 states that Handrail assemblies and guards shall be able to resist a single concentrated load of 200 pounds, applied in any direction at any point along the top, and have attachment devices and supporting structure to transfer this loading to appropriate structural elements of the building." Does a guard that is not physically attached to the supporting structure meet the intent of this code section?

**Answer:** Section 1607.7.1.1 of the 2006 IBC requires that the guard be capable of resisting the concentrated load. Furthermore, whatever attachments and support are provided for the guard, must be capable of resisting these same loads.

**NCC Stance:** Moveable guards are allowed, but they are required to meet the loading requirements outlined in Section 1607.7.1.1.

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**Code Updates:** The section associated with this code opinion has been relocated to 1607.8 with the adoption of the 2015 IBC. This code interpretation is unaffected by the change.

George O. Haggerty  
Code Official

**STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION**