

OSHPD Handrail Approval

June 4, 2013

C-S Group, Inc.
4660 Paradise Road
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Attn: Dave Laidacker
Product Development Specialist
Research and Development

RE: Handrails Not Eligible for OSHPD's 2013 OPM Program

Hello Dave,

Per our conversation, I am generating this letter to explain OSHPD's position of handrails and their current 2013 OPM Program. OPM (OSHPD Pre-Approval of Manufacturer's Certification) is an enhanced pre-approval of the equipment anchorage program for seismic demands, over the 2010 OPA Program. OSHPD has revised this program to follow more closely requirements as outlined in the upcoming 2013 CA Building Code (2013 CBC). One of those clarifications is what is and what is not eligible for an OPM application.

The design basis for pre-approval is the ability for anchorage to resist seismic demands with the goal of life safety. Another goal is to have an operating hospital facility in the event of a major earthquake.

OSHPD states that for an OPM, seismic loading must govern in the design of the anchorage. This is the basis of not accepting handrails for an OPM application since the governing design load is a live load of a 200 lb point load applied anywhere along the handrail as prescribe by the 2013 CBC. Handrails do not have enough mass to be adversely affected by an earthquake and would never generate a load greater than the 200 lb design live load.

In addition, EASE has asked OSHPD directly about the acceptance of handrails for an OPM. It was explained to us by the Program Director, Mohammad Karim, that handrails will not be accepted for an OPM and should have never been available for the OPA Program either for the same reasons as I have stated above.

I hope this letter provides the information that you have requested. Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions or comments or looking to discuss further.

Regards,



Kevin P. Burke, P.E.
EASE, LLC, Principal