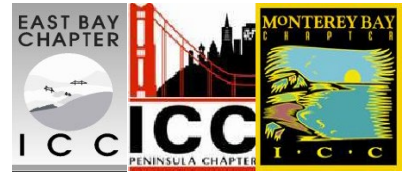


ICC TRI-CHAPTER UNIFORM CODE COMMITTEE (TUCC)



POLICY NUMBER: 21-1

APPROVAL DATE: September 19, 2024 Updated
(Previous Approvals: 10/13/16, 03/12/15)

SUBJECT: Multifamily Podium Structures – Bathtub Reinforced Walls

This guideline is developed by the Tri-Chapter Uniform Code Committee and is intended to enhance regional consistency in application and enforcement of the Building Code. Please verify acceptance of this guideline with your local building department prior to its application.

ISSUE(S):

2022 CBC: Do prefabricated bathtub enclosures need to install reinforced walls per CBC 1134A.5?

PROPOSED GUIDELINE:

The reinforced walls for bathtubs of “adaptable units” are required for the future installation of grab bars per Section 1134A.5. Grab bars are not installed at the time of construction for these units.

Prefabricated bathtub enclosures come in many different types. Some enclosures come with several assembled pieces; a tub and walls are separate units. These enclosures usually do not include code compliant wall reinforcements for grab bars. Therefore, reinforced walls per code for future grab bars are required.

In some cases, prefabricated bathtubs may come with integrated enclosures (one piece) that have built-in wall reinforcements per code. Jurisdictions may consider these enclosures to be acceptable if both of the following are met:

1. The manufacturer’s specification shows the enclosure complies with ADA requirements and the wall reinforcements comply with the code; and
2. Replacing the enclosure will require substantial work including exposing the existing walls.

CODE REFERENCE(S): 2022 California Building Code

CBC 1134A.2 Option 1 (Item 10) & Option 2 (Item 12). All bathrooms, bathing and toilet facilities within covered multifamily dwelling units shall be designed to comply with the following:

Reinforced walls to allow for the future installation of grab bars around the toilet, tub and shower shall comply with Sections 1134A.5 for bathtubs, 1134A.6 for showers and 1134A.7 for water closets.

CBC 1134A.5 Bathtubs. Bathtubs required to be accessible shall comply with this section.

2. Reinforced walls for grab bars. A bathtub installed without surrounding walls shall provide reinforced areas for the installation of floor-mounted grab bars.

Where a bathtub is installed with surrounding walls, grab bar reinforcement shall be located on each end of the bathtub, 32 inches to 38 inches (813 mm to 965 mm) above the floor, extending a minimum of 24 inches (610 mm) from the front edge of the bathtub toward the back wall of the bathtub. The grab bar reinforcement shall be a minimum of 6 inches (152.4 mm) nominal in height. (See Figure 11A-9G).

Grab bar reinforcement shall be installed on the back wall of the bathtub a maximum of 6 inches (152.4 mm) above the bathtub rim extending upward to at least 38 inches (965 mm) above the floor. Grab bar backing shall be installed horizontally to permit the installation of a 48-inch (1219 mm) grab bar with each end a maximum of 6 inches (152.4 mm) from the end walls of the bathtub. The grab bar reinforcement shall be a minimum of 6 inches (152.4 mm) nominal in height.

CBC 1127A.4 Structural strength... 250-pound point load....