

Ornamental metals and railings final inspection checklist

Ornamental metals and railings final inspection is where the punch list is either short or expensive. This checklist walks the finished work the way an owner or AHJ will see it: devices on, systems running, everything labeled. Each item gets the photo that closes it instead of reopening it. Work is commonly verified against the applicable building code, AWS D1.1. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The GC's superintendent with the railing installer, walking finished stairs and edges before turnover. When: After rails are set and grouted and welds and finish are complete, before the owner's punch walk.

Alignment and anchorage

- ☐ **Rails plumb, aligned and top height correct**
Posts plumb, top rail straight and to the required guard or handrail height, no dips or kinks along the run or across landings. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Anchorage load-checked in place**
Posts and brackets firm under a firm push, grout set solid in pockets, base-plate fasteners tight, no rock or movement at the connection. 2 photos required

Guard geometry

- ☐ **Post spacing and infill opening limits observed**
Baluster or infill openings checked with a gauge on level and raked runs, no gap that passes the limiting sphere, no gap at the bottom rail. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Handrail continuity, profile and extensions**
Handrail continuous through the run, graspable profile per the detail, extensions past the top and bottom risers with returns to wall or post. 2 photos required

Welds and finish

- ☐ **Field welds sound and complete**
Welds at field connections full and continuous where called, no cracks, undercut or skipped joints, ground smooth where exposed before touch-up. 2 photos required
- ☐ **Finish continuous with no bare or damaged metal**
Coating or finish unbroken over welds and cut ends, no bare steel, scratches or overspray, decorative finish matching across matched pieces. 1 photo required