READY TO INSPECT — FIELD CHECKLIST

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
- [ ] Rail splices, joints and end caps tight and flush
  Splices along the run pinned or welded with no step or open seam, end caps and terminations seated, nothing loose a hand can catch on.
  1 photo 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
- [ ] Handrail clearance to the wall checked at each bracket
  Clear space between handrail and wall matches the approved drawings along the run, bracket projection consistent, no wainscot or trim closing the gap.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Balusters, pickets and infill panels fastened at both ends
  Every baluster, picket, mesh or panel captured top and bottom with clips, set screws or welds present; nothing rattles or lifts out by hand.
  1 photo required
- [ ] Every guard location on the code plan has its rail installed
  Code plan and architectural drawings walked edge by edge against what is installed; no stair, ramp, landing or open edge left without its guard or handrail.
  No photo 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.
  No photo 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

- [ ] Grip surfaces free of burrs, spatter and sharp cut ends
  A hand run along the top rail and handrail finds no burr, weld spatter or sharp edge at cut ends, miters and bracket saddles.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Special inspector's anchor and weld reports on file
  Where the statement of special inspections covers rail anchors or field welds, the inspector's reports for each stair or edge are in hand with open items closed.
  No photo required

Protection and records

- [ ] Finished rails protected from trades still using the stairs
  Wrap or guards on finished handrails and infill where stairs stay in use, no ladders or material stacked against glass or pickets.
  1 photo required

- [ ] Rail layout deviations recorded for the as-built set
  Moved posts, added brackets or changed anchors noted by location for the as-built drawings and sent to the delegated designer where the change touches the load path.
  No photo required