
9551 Hwy 13 S, #6
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

September 21, 2016

Lorelei Fuehrer, Bldg. Inspector
City of Saratoga
1120 State Hwy 73 South
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494

Dear Ms Fuehrer:

New back door steps were installed 09/11/16 on the trailer I'm renting since 4/27/16. The difference in riser height caused a few stumbles going down the first couple days but I thought I had the hang of it. Unfortunately, on 9/16/16, I tripped on the short top step when I was hauling up a 30lb bucket of kitty litter. I fell onto the landing banging myself up a bit – luckily no broken bones: a twisted ankle and an aching elbow and shoulder.

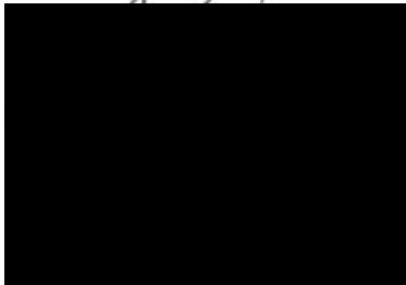
I got curious about whether the height disparity in the step risers was legal given the fairly obvious (and painful) risks. I learned that Saratoga uses Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code (231.04). The steps to the front door also have a 1" disparity between the first and second steps. As the key cannot be inserted into the back door lock, I do need to be able to use both sets of steps.

Photos are attached for your convenience. You are welcome to stop by as your office is just down the road or you can call to schedule an appointment with me. If I need to contact someone else or complete a form to initiate your inspection, just give me a call/text or send an email.

I hope you'll be able to evaluate both of these stairs for me soon. I would like to remain upright while climbing these steps especially in light of the challenges of the approaching winter and my 67th birthday.

I appreciate your assistance in this matter and need to be updated on your completed inspection.

Sincerely,



Back steps



**1st-3rd
steps:
6 ½"**



3rd to 4th step: 4"

Front Steps



**32 1/2" width of Step #2
(replaced step: see pic of
all steps above)**

UDC: Distance between risers are to be same height; stair width is to be 36"+

**SPS 321.04(2)(a)
Code on next pg.**



#6 Previous back steps – 3 metal steps, no rail, 33” from ground to entry door



SPS 321.04(3)(a)2.(handrail)

Guards shall be provided on all open sides of stairs consisting of more than 3 risers and on all open sides of areas that are **elevated more than 24 inches** above the floor or exterior grade.

SPS 321.04(2)(a)(a) Width.

1. Except for spiral staircases under subd. 2., **stairways shall measure at least 36 inches in width**. Handrails and associated trim may project a maximum of 4.5 inches into the required width at each side of the stairway. The minimum clear width at and below the handrail, including at treads and landings, may not be less than 31.5 inches where a handrail is installed on one side, and 27 inches where handrails are provided on both sides.