Many Advantages With Stainless Steel Handrailing

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Lance Quinlan, national technical sales consultant at Andrew Mentis, explains that stainless steel tube offers many advantages to the manufacturing, petrochemical/chemical, food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries.

“Apart from its high levels of corrosion resistance, stainless steel can be used in rigorous environments, retaining strength at high temperatures,” he says. “Its non-porous properties offer a hygienic surface which, when coupled with its easy cleaning ability, makes the material the primary choice for applications that require strict hygiene control.”

The aesthetic appearance of its polished surface provides a modern and attractive appearance for most architectural metal applications. Stainless steel is easy to maintain and provides improved corrosion performance offering a long useful cycle.

Quinlan says that handrails are expected to meet both aesthetic requirements as well as structural safety, and stainless steel will not deteriorate as rapidly as mild steel will in exterior or industrial installations with aggressive pollution and/or chloride exposure.

“Rusting handrailing can be a major factor in accidents, and using stainless steel in potentially hazardous environments increases the safety factor,” he says.

Andrew Mentis provides a variety of handrails in three alternative grades: 3CR12, 304 and 316 stainless steel. Stanchions on the Andrew Mentis stainless steel handrails are 45 mm in diameter with a 2 mm wall thickness. Base plates are designed to allow moisture to drain from the stanchion itself, adding to the corrosion resistant benefits. The centre hole for the knee rail is drilled and then flared on both sides. The top is also flared and a half round cap is welded into place. The base plate is 8 mm thick and welded to the tube.

Hand-, knee-rail and bends are manufactured from 31.8 mm diameter tube with a 1.5 mm wall thickness. Bends and closures have swaged ends, improving speed of installation and preventing moisture from penetrating into the joints.

“Typically, the more corrosion resistant Type 316 stainless steel handrails are the most cost effective choice in demanding environments. They require minimal maintenance, no paint or coating and provide safety and an attractive appearance. The service life of carbon steel and aluminium is typically limited by corrosion damage, which reduces structural integrity and appearance,” Quinlan says.

He points out that an important aspect of structural integrity is the perceived ability of a handrail to withstand the load associated with one or more large persons or individuals accidentally falling against or climbing on it. In general applications, where corrosion is not a big factor, stainless steel handrailing can remain *in situ* with little or no maintenance, for many years. In more corrosive environments, for example close proximity to the sea or in locations with aggressive pollution and/or chloride exposure, 316 stainless steel provides a major maintenance cost savings over other handrail types.

“Customised advice by our team of technical specialists ensures that the best handrail material is selected for the customer’s specific application. Factors such as environmental conditions, amount of human traffic and aesthetics come into play and dictate the final product used. Solutions for even the most arduous conditions are available,” Quinlan concludes.

Captions

SS HANDRAILING PIC 01 : Mentis stainless steel tubular handrailing system is corrosion-resistant and maintenance free.

SS HANDRAILING PIC 02 : Mentis stainless steel handrailing has become increasingly popular in applications such as wastewater treatment plants.

SS HANDRAILING PIC 03 : The Mentis stainless steel handrailing system has clean, modern lines.

SS HANDRAILING PIC 04 : The components of the Mentis stainless steel tubular handrailing system are manufactured to allow ease of installation, and no special tools are required.

Hashtags

#handrailing

#locallymanufactured

#stainlesssteelhandrailing

#safety

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