Handrail Grip Size Requirements As Outlined In the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC)

R311.7.8.3 Handrail Grip Size
All required handrails shall be of one of the following types or provide equivalent graspability.

(Type I) Handrails with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of at least 1 ¼ inches and not greater than 2 inches. If the handrail is not circular it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4 inches and not greater than 6 ¼ inches with a maximum cross section dimension of 2 ¼ inches.

![Diagram of Handrail Grip Size Requirements](image.png)
(Type II) Handrails with a perimeter greater than 6 ¼ inches shall provide a graspable finger recess area on both sides of the profile. The finger recess shall begin within a distance of ¾ inch measured vertically from the tallest portion of the profile and achieve a depth of at least 5/16 inch within 7/8 inch below the widest portion of the profile. This required depth shall continue for at least 3/8 inch to a level that is not less than 1 ¾ inches below the tallest portion of the profile. The minimum width of the handrail above the recess shall be 1 ¼ inches to a maximum of 2 ¾ inches. Edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.01 inches.

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm.

Figure R311.7.8.3(2) TYPE II HANDRAIL