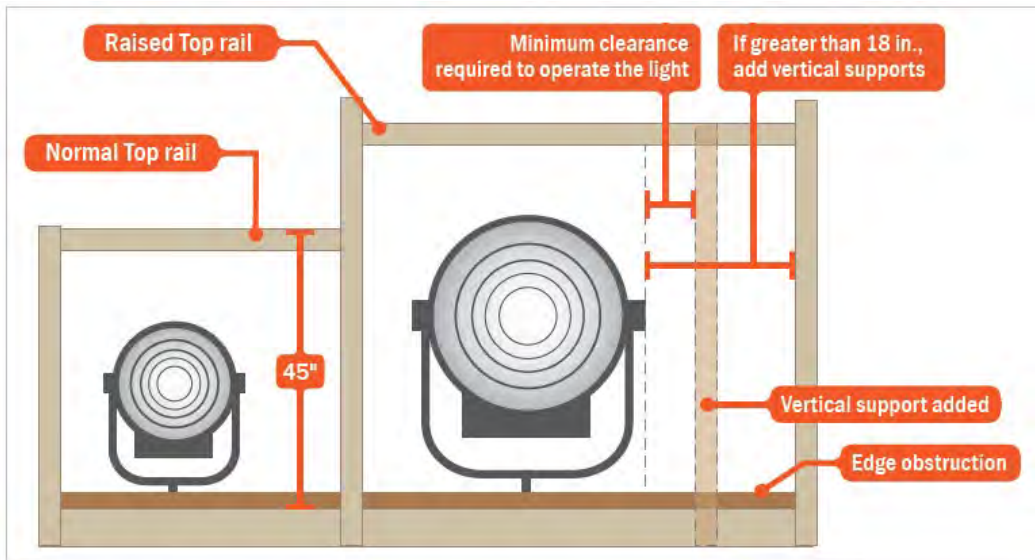


# Guardrails on Lighting Platforms



**Figure 1.** Where there are lights between a standard (45-in.) top rail and the platform, no midrail is required (left). If the top rail has to be higher to accommodate large lights (right), vertical supports must be added where the horizontal distance is more than 18 inches.

Cal/OSHA uses the term *lamp scaffold* for any elevated staging used to support lighting units, such as parallels, greenbeds, scaffold, or catwalks. Cal/OSHA allows the following accommodations to maintain adequate fall protection where standard guardrails may interfere with the operation of lighting and sound equipment.

On *operating sides*, where lights are supported, a **single rail** must be provided 42–45 in. above the upper surface of the platform.

Standard guardrails (top rail and midrail) must be provided on any open sides that are not being used for lighting positions (the *non-operating sides*). Posts, top rails, and midrails must be at least 2 × 4 in. selected lumber, or material of equivalent strength and rigidity.

If the operating-side guardrail needs to be **higher than 45 in.** (such as to accommodate operation of sound equipment or installation of larger lights), the following requirements apply:

If there are open spaces greater than 18 in. between lights or supports, additional vertical barriers must be installed to reduce the openings to the **minimum clearance needed to operate the lights.**

**Exception:** when larger lights are used which require more than 18 in. side clearance for manipulation and handling, horizontal distances up to 24 in. may be left on each side of such lights, but in all cases such openings shall be held to the minimum required to manipulate the light.

Additional vertical supports must be securely attached to the bed at the bottom, and to a sufficiently strong and rigid member at the top.

Use a sufficient number of fasteners, fully driven (to the first head for double-headed nails) to provide the required strength. Use nothing smaller than an 8d common nail (2.5 in.).