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**A500-16**

## **Building guards**

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# A500-16

## ***Building guards***



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# Preface

This is the first edition of CSA A500, *Building guards*.

This Standard was prepared in response to requests from stakeholders who saw the need for a standard for materials, design, construction, testing, and performance of building guards. The Standard was developed through the collaboration of designers, engineers, fabricators, suppliers, building owners, property developers, regulators, and other technical specialists.

Special recognition is given to the members of the Writers Working Group for developing content for this Standard.

CSA Group acknowledges that the development of this Standard was made possible, in part, by the financial support of Concord Adex, Daniels Group, Grappe Industrielle d'Aluminium du Québec (GIAQ), Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, RESCON, Royal Guard, State Window Corporation, Toro Aluminum Railings, and Tridel-Deltera.

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Building Guards, under the jurisdiction of the Construction and Civil Infrastructure Strategic Steering Committee, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

## Notes:

- 1) *Use of the singular does not exclude the plural (and vice versa) when the sense allows.*
- 2) *Although the intended primary application of this Standard is stated in its Scope, it is important to note that it remains the responsibility of the users of the Standard to judge its suitability for their particular purpose.*
- 3) *This Standard was developed by consensus, which is defined by CSA Policy governing standardization — Code of good practice for standardization as “substantial agreement. Consensus implies much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity”. It is consistent with this definition that a member may be included in the Technical Committee list and yet not be in full agreement with all clauses of this Standard.*
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  - a) *define the problem, making reference to the specific clause, and, where appropriate, include an illustrative sketch;*
  - b) *provide an explanation of circumstances surrounding the actual field condition; and*
  - c) *where possible, phrase the request in such a way that a specific “yes” or “no” answer will address the issue.*

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- 5) *This Standard is subject to review five years from the date of publication. Suggestions for its improvement will be referred to the appropriate committee. To submit a proposal for change, please send the following information to [inquiries@csagroup.org](mailto:inquiries@csagroup.org) and include “Proposal for change” in the subject line:*
  - a) *Standard designation (number);*
  - b) *relevant clause, table, and/or figure number;*
  - c) *wording of the proposed change; and*
  - d) *rationale for the change.*

# A500-16

## ***Building guards***

### **0 Introduction**

#### **0.1 General**

This Standard was developed in response to a request from stakeholders who saw the need for a standard for materials, design, construction, testing, and performance of building guards.

#### **0.2 Intent**

The intent of this Standard is to specify minimum requirements for the materials, design, construction, testing, and performance of building guards and to provide guidance on assessing guards to maintain ongoing minimum performance levels.

This Standard is intended to be

- a) adopted by building code regulations in provinces and territories across Canada;
- b) reviewed and updated from time to time to reflect the current state of knowledge of building guards; and
- c) used in its entirety.

### **1 Scope**

#### **1.1 General**

This Standard specifies requirements for the materials, design, construction, testing, and performance of building guards.

This Standard applies to building guards required as protective barriers to prevent accidental falls from one level to another.

#### **Notes:**

- 1) *This includes walls acting as guards.*
- 2) *Guards can be with or without openings, around openings in floors, or at the open sides of stairs, landings, balconies, mezzanines, galleries, raised walkways, or other locations.*

#### **1.2 Exclusions**

This Standard does not apply to

- a) temporary guards regulated elsewhere by applicable health and safety requirements;
- b) guards for resisting impact from vehicles;
- c) guards used in Group F (industrial occupancy) buildings as set out by the *National Building Code of Canada (NBC)*; and
- d) guards used in Group A (assembly occupancy) buildings that are permitted to be designed to other requirements as set out by the *National Building Code of Canada (NBC)*, such as in places of assembly with fixed seats or bleacher seats.

### 1.3 Terminology

In this Standard, “shall” is used to express a requirement, i.e., a provision that the user is obliged to satisfy in order to comply with the Standard; “should” is used to express a recommendation or that which is advised but not required; and “may” is used to express an option or that which is permissible within the limits of the Standard.

Notes accompanying clauses do not include requirements or alternative requirements; the purpose of a note accompanying a clause is to separate from the text explanatory or informative material.

Notes to tables and figures are considered part of the table or figure and may be written as requirements.

Annexes are designated normative (mandatory) or informative (non-mandatory) to define their application.

## 2 Reference publications

This Standard refers to the following publications, and where such reference is made, it shall be to the edition listed below, including all amendments published thereto.

### CSA Group

A23.1/A23.2-14

*Concrete materials and methods of concrete construction/Test methods and standard practices for concrete*

A23.3-14

*Design of Concrete Structures*

A23.4-16

*Precast Concrete — Materials and Construction*

CAN/CSA-A82-14

*Fired masonry brick made from clay or shale*

A165-14 Series

*CSA Standards on concrete masonry units*

CAN/CSA-A179-14

*Mortar and grout for unit masonry*

CAN/CSA-A370-14

*Connectors for masonry*

CAN/CSA-A371-14

*Masonry Construction for Buildings*

CAN/CSA-O80 Series-15

*Wood preservation*