Stairways within dwelling units are permitted to have a hand rail on one side only. R311.7.8
However, guards are still required on open-sided walking surfaces more than 30 inches above
floor grade. R312.1.1

If the handrail is not circular, it shall have a perimeter dimension of at least 4in. and not greater
than 6.25in. with a maximum cross-section dimension of 2.25 inches. R311.7.8.3 #1

A continuous run of treads or flight of stairs with fewer than four risers does not require hand-
rails. R311.7.8

If not round, edges shall have a minimum radius of 0.01 inch. R311.7.8.3 #1

Not less than 1 1/4 inches nor more than 2 inches in cross section. R311.7.8.3 #1

Minimum 1 1/2 inches clearance from wall to handrail. R311.8.3