Guardrails and Handrails on Stairs

Code: 2018 Building Code
Section: 1011.11 and 1015

Question:
Can the guard on stairways required by Section 1015 also serve as the handrail required by 1011.11?

Answer:
No. 1015.3 requires guardrails to be 42 inches high. Section 1014.2 requires handrails, which is required on both sides of stairways, to be 34 to 38 inches high inclusive. There is no allowance for adjusting the height of a guard on a stairway so that it can also serve as the required handrail. The handrail, however, may be attached to a guard.

Keywords:
guard rail, hand rail, fall protection