



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

# **Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods**

For New Zealand Building Code Clause  
**D1 Access Routes**



## Status of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions

Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are prepared by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in accordance with section 22 of the Building Act 2004. Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are for use in establishing compliance with the New Zealand Building Code.

A person who complies with a Verification Method or Acceptable Solution will be treated as having complied with the provisions of the Building Code to which the Verification Method or Acceptable Solution relates. However, using a Verification Method or Acceptable Solution is only one method of complying with the Building Code. There may be alternative ways to comply.

Users should make themselves familiar with the preface to the New Zealand Building Code Handbook, which describes the status of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions and explains alternative methods of achieving compliance.

Defined words (italicised in the text) and classified uses are explained in Clauses A1 and A2 of the Building Code and in the Definitions at the start of this document.

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**Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions  
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## New Zealand Government

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## Document Status

The most recent version of this document (Amendment 6), as detailed in the Document History, is approved by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. It is effective from 1 January 2017 and supersedes all previous versions of this document.

The previous version of this document (Amendment 5) will cease to have effect on 30 May 2017.

People using this document should check for amendments on a regular basis. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment may amend any part of any Verification Method or Acceptable Solution at any time. Up-to-date versions of Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are available from [www.building.govt.nz](http://www.building.govt.nz)

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Amendment 6	Effective 1 January 2017	p. 9 Contents p. 11 References p. 13 Definitions p. 15 D1/VM1 p. 17 D1/AS1 1.1.5, 1.2.2 p. 21 D1/AS1 2.0, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4 pp. D1/AS1 22-24 2.1.5, 2.1.16, Table 2 p. 25-26 D1/AS1 2.1.6, 3.1.3, 3.1.4 p. 27 D1/AS1 4.1.1 p. 29 D1/AS1 Figure 12	p. 30 D1/AS1 4.1.8, 4.2.1 p. 34 D1/AS1 5.1.1 p. 35 D1/AS1 Figure 19 p. 39 D1/AS1 6.0.1 p. 40 D1/AS1 Figure 25 p. 41 D1/AS1 6.0.6, 6.0.10 p. 42 D1/AS1 Figure 26 p. 43 D1/AS1 7.0.5 p. 45 D1/AS1 9.2.1, Table 9 p. 46 D1/AS1 10.0, 11.0, 12.0 pp. 47, 49 Index
<b>Note: Page numbers relate to the document at the time of Amendment and may not match page numbers in current document.</b>			



# New Zealand Building Code

## Clause D1 Access Routes

This Clause is extracted from the New Zealand Building Code contained in the First Schedule of the Building Regulations 1992.

28	<i>Building Regulations 1992</i>	1992/150
FIRST SCHEDULE— <i>continued</i>		
<b>Clause D1—ACCESS ROUTES</b>		
<b>Provisions</b>	<b>Limits on application</b>	
<b>OBJECTIVE</b>		
<b>D1.1</b> The objective of this provision is:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Safeguard people from injury during movement into, within and out of <i>buildings</i>,</li> <li>(b) Safeguard people from injury resulting from the movement of vehicles into, within and out of <i>buildings</i>, and</li> <li>(c) Ensure that <i>people with disabilities</i> are able to enter and carry out normal activities and functions within <i>buildings</i>.</li> </ul>	<p>Objective D1.1(c) shall apply only to those <i>buildings</i> to which section 47A of the Act applies.</p>	
<b>FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENT</b>		
<b>D1.2.1</b> <i>Buildings</i> shall be provided with reasonable and adequate access to enable safe and easy movement of people.		
<b>D1.2.2</b> Where a <i>building</i> is provided with loading or parking spaces, they shall be constructed to permit safe and easy unloading and movement of vehicles, and to avoid conflict between vehicles and pedestrians.		
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>		
<b>D1.3.1</b> <i>Access routes</i> shall enable people to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Safely and easily approach the main entrance of <i>buildings</i> from the apron or <i>construction edge</i> of a <i>building</i>,</li> <li>(b) Enter <i>buildings</i>,</li> <li>(c) Move into spaces within <i>buildings</i> by such means as corridors, doors, stairs, ramps and lifts,</li> <li>(d) Manoeuvre and park cars, and</li> <li>(e) Manoeuvre and park delivery vehicles required to use the loading space.</li> </ul>	<p>Requirement D1.2.1 shall not apply to <i>Ancillary buildings</i> or <i>Outbuildings</i>.</p>	

Note: Section 47A is in the Building Act 1991. The equivalent section in the Building Act 2004 is section 118.  
Effective from 29 December 2000

1992/150

Building Regulations 1992

29

## FIRST SCHEDULE—continued

Provisions	Limits on application
<p><b>D1.3.2</b> At least one <i>access route</i> shall have features to enable <i>people with disabilities</i> to:</p> <p>(a) Approach the <i>building</i> from the street boundary or, where required to be provided, the <i>building car park</i>,</p> <p>(b) Have access to the internal space served by the principal access, and</p> <p>(c) Have access to and within those spaces where they may be expected to work or visit, or which contain facilities for personal hygiene as required by Clause G1 “Personal Hygiene”.</p> <p><b>D1.3.3</b> Access routes shall:</p> <p>(a) Have <i>adequate</i> activity space,</p> <p>(b) Be free from dangerous obstructions and from any projections likely to cause an obstruction,</p> <p>(c) Have a safe cross fall, and safe slope in the direction of travel,</p> <p>(d) Have <i>adequate</i> slip-resistant walking surfaces under all conditions of normal use,</p> <p>(e) Include stairs to allow access to upper floors irrespective of whether an escalator or lift has been provided,</p> <p>(f) Have stair treads, and ladder treads or rungs which:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(i) provide <i>adequate</i> footing, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(ii) have uniform rise within each flight and for consecutive flights,</p> <p>(g) Have stair treads with a leading edge that can be easily seen,</p>	<p>Performance D1.3.2 shall not apply to <i>Housing, Outbuildings, backcountry huts, Ancillary buildings</i>, and to <i>Industrial buildings</i> where no more than 10 people are employed.</p>

Effective from  
31 October 2008

FIRST SCHEDULE—*continued*

Provisions	Limits on application
(h) Have stair treads which prevent children falling through or becoming held fast between treads, where open risers are used,	Performance D1.3.3 (h) shall not apply within <i>Industrial buildings, Outbuildings and Ancillary buildings.</i>
(i) Not contain isolated steps,	Performance D1.3.3 (i) shall not apply with <i>Detached Dwellings</i> or within <i>household units of Multi-unit Dwellings</i> , or to <i>Outbuildings and Ancillary buildings.</i>
(j) Have smooth, reachable and graspable <i>handrails</i> to provide support and to assist with movement along a stair or ladder,	Performance D1.3.3 (j) shall not apply to isolated steps.
(k) Have <i>handrails of adequate</i> strength and rigidity as required by Clause B1 "Structure",	
(l) Have landings of appropriate dimensions and at appropriate intervals along a stair or ramp to prevent undue fatigue,	
(m) Have landings of appropriate dimensions where a door opens from or onto a stair, ramp or ladder so that the door does not create a hazard, and	
(n) Have any automatically controlled doors <i>constructed</i> to avoid the risk of people becoming caught or being struck by moving parts.	
<b>D1.3.4</b> An <i>accessible route</i> , in addition to the requirement of Clause D1.3.3, shall:	
(a) Be easy to find, as required by Clause F8 "Signs",	
(b) Have <i>adequate</i> activity space to enable a person in a wheelchair to negotiate the route while permitting an ambulant person to pass,	

1992/150

Building Regulations 1992

31

FIRST SCHEDULE—*continued*

Provisions	Limits on application
<p>(c) Include a lift complying with Clause D2 “Mechanical Installations for Access” to upper floors where:</p> <p>(i) <i>buildings</i> are four or more storeys high,</p> <p>(ii) <i>buildings</i> are three storeys high and have a total design occupancy of 50 or more persons on the two upper floors,</p> <p>(iii) <i>buildings</i> are two storeys high and have a total design occupancy of 40 or more persons on the upper floor, or</p> <p>(iv) an upper floor, irrespective of design occupancy, is to be used for the purposes of public reception areas of banks, central, regional and local government offices and facilities, hospitals, medical and dental surgeries, and medical, paramedical and other primary health care centres,</p> <p>(d) Contain no thresholds or upstands forming a barrier to an unaided wheelchair user,</p> <p>(e) Have means to prevent the wheel of a wheelchair dropping over the side of the <i>accessible route</i>,</p> <p>(f) Have doors and related hardware which are easily used,</p> <p>(g) Not include spiral stairs, or stairs having open risers,</p> <p>(h) Have stair treads with leading edge which is rounded, and</p>	



FIRST SCHEDULE—*continued*

Provisions	Limits on application
<p>(i) Have <i>handrails</i> on both sides of the <i>accessible route</i> when the slope of the route exceeds 1 in 20. The <i>handrails</i> shall be continuous along both sides of the stair, ramp and landing except where the <i>handrail</i> is interrupted by a doorway.</p> <p><b>D1.3.5</b> Vehicle spaces and circulation routes shall have:</p> <p>(a) Dimensions appropriate to the <i>intended use</i>,</p> <p>(b) Appropriate crossfall, and slope in the direction of travel,</p> <p>(c) <i>Adequate</i> queuing and circulation space, and</p> <p>(d) <i>Adequate</i> sight distances.</p> <p><b>D1.3.6</b> Vehicle spaces for use by <i>people with disabilities</i>, shall, in addition to the requirements of Clause D1.3.5, be:</p> <p>(a) Provided in sufficient numbers,</p> <p>(b) Located to avoid conflict between vehicles and people using or moving to or from the space, and</p> <p>(c) Easy to find as required by Clause F8 Signs.</p>	



# Contents

	Page		Page
<b>References</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7.0 Doors and Openings</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Definitions</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8.0 Places of Assembly</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Verification Method D1/VM1</b>	<b>15</b>	8.1 Spaces for wheelchairs	43
<b>1.0 Slip Resistance</b>	<b>15</b>	8.2 Access to performance areas	43
<b>Acceptable Solution D1/AS1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9.0 Accessible Accommodation</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>1.0 General Criteria</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Units of Communal Residential Buildings</b>	
1.1 Location	17	9.1 Number of units to be provided	43
1.2 Slope	17	9.2 Facilities to be provided	45
1.3 Changes in level	17	<b>10.0 Movement of Vehicles</b>	<b>46</b>
1.4 Height clearances	18	10.1 Car parking areas	46
1.5 Obstructions	18		
1.6 Structural stability	20	<b>11.0 Other Acceptable Solutions</b>	<b>46</b>
1.7 Barriers	21	<b>12.0 Lifts</b>	<b>46</b>
1.8 Lighting	21	<b>Index</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>2.0 Access Routes</b>	<b>21</b>		
2.1 Slip resistance	21		
2.2 Width	25		
2.3 Protection from falling	25		
<b>3.0 Ramps</b>	<b>25</b>		
3.1 Slope	25		
3.2 Width	26		
3.3 Landings	26		
3.4 Kerb ramps	27		
<b>4.0 Stairways</b>	<b>27</b>		
4.1 Pitch, risers and treads	27		
4.2 Width	30		
4.3 Landings	31		
4.4 Curved and spiral stairways	33		
4.5 Stair winders	33		
4.6 Visibility of stair treads	33		
<b>5.0 Fixed Ladders</b>	<b>34</b>		
5.1 General	34		
5.2 Step-type ladders	37		
5.3 Rung-type ladders	38		
5.4 Individual rung-type ladders	39		
<b>6.0 Handrails</b>	<b>39</b>		

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

Amend 6  
Jan 2017  
Amend 5  
Oct 2011



# References

Amend 4 Jul 2001 | For the purposes of New Zealand Building Code (NZBC) compliance, the Standards and documents referenced in these Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods (primary reference documents) must be the editions, along with their specific amendments, listed below. Where these primary reference documents refer to other Standards or documents (secondary reference documents), which in turn may also refer to other Standards or documents, and so on (lower-order reference documents), then the version in effect at the date of publication of this Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods must be used. | Amend 6 Jan 2017

Amend 5 Oct 2011 | | Amend 6 Jan 2017

## Standards New Zealand

			Where quoted
Amend 6 Oct 2016	AS/NZS 2890:- Part 1: 2004	Parking facilities Off street parking	AS1 10.1   Amend 6 Jan 2017
Amend 6 Jan 2017	Part 2: 2002	Off street commercial facilities <i>Amend: 1</i>	AS1 11.0.2
Amend 5 Oct 2011	NZS 3114: 1987	Specification for concrete surface finishes <i>Amend: 1</i>	AS1 Table 2
Amend 5 Oct 2011	NZS 3116: 2002	Concrete segmental and flagstone paving <i>Amend: 1</i>	AS1 Table 2
Amend 4 Jul 2001	NZS 4121: 2001	Design for access and mobility – Buildings and associated facilities	AS1 10.1.1, 12.0.2   Amend 6 Jan 2017

## Standards Australia

	AS 1657: 2013	Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders – Design, construction and installation	AS1 11.0.1   Amend 6 Jan 2017
	AS 4586: 2013:-	Slip resistance classification of new pedestrian surface materials	AS1 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4 3.1.4 Table 2
	SA HB 198: 2014	Guide to the specification and testing of slip resistance of pedestrian surfaces	AS1 2.1.4

Amend 6 Jan 2017

## British Standards Institution

	BS 585:- Part 1: 1989	Wood stairs. Specification for stairs with closed risers for domestic use, including straight and winder flights and quarter or half landings	AS1 4.5.3
	BS 5395:- Part 2: 1984	Stairs, ladders and walkways Code of practice for the design of helical and spiral stairs	AS1 4.4.1
Amend 6 Jan 2017	BS EN 14975: 2006	Loft ladders – Requirements, marking and testing <i>Amend: 1</i>	AS1 5.1.1



# Definitions

This is an abbreviated list of definitions for words or terms particularly relevant to these Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods. The definitions for any other italicised words may be found in the New Zealand Building Code Handbook.

Amends  
5 and 6

**Access route** A continuous route that permits people and goods to move between the apron or construction edge of the *building* to spaces within a *building*, and between spaces within a *building*.

**Accessible** Having features to permit use by *people with disabilities*.

**Accessible route** An *access route* usable by *people with disabilities*. It shall be a continuous route that can be negotiated unaided by a wheelchair user. The route shall extend from street boundary or car parking area to those spaces within the *building* required to be *accessible* to enable *people with disabilities* to carry out normal activities and processes within the *building*.

**Accessible stairway** A *stairway* having features for use by *people with disabilities*. *Buildings* required to be *accessible* shall have at least one *accessible stairway* leading off an *accessible route* whether or not a lift is provided.

**Adequate** *Adequate* to achieve the objectives of the *building code*.

**Building** has the meaning given to it by sections 8 and 9 of the *Building Act 2004*.

Amend 5  
Oct 2011

**Common ramp** A ramp which is used, or intended to be used by the public whether as of right or not, and is not a *service ramp* or *accessible ramp*.

**Common stairway** A *stairway* which is used, or intended to be used, by the public whether as of right or not, and is not a *private stairway*, *service stairway* or *accessible stairway*.

**Handrail** A rail to provide support to, or assist with the movement of a person.

## Household unit

(a) means a *building* or group of *buildings*, or part of a *building* or group of *buildings*, that is—

- (i) used, or intended to be used, only or mainly for residential purposes; and
- (ii) occupied, or intended to be occupied, exclusively as the home or residence of not more than 1 household; but

(b) does not include a hostel, boarding house, or other specialised accommodation.

Amend 5  
Oct 2011

**Kerb ramp** means a short ramp either cutting through a kerb or built up to the kerb.

**Main private stairway** A *private stairway* intended to provide access to and between frequently used spaces such as living areas, kitchens and garages, and includes all exterior *private stairways*.

**Minor private stairway** A *private stairway* not on a main thoroughfare, and intended to provide infrequent access to a single room which is not a living area or kitchen.

**Nosing** The rounded projecting edge of a stair tread.

**Person with a disability** means a *person* who has an impairment or a combination of impairments that limits the extent to which the *person* can engage in the activities, pursuits, and processes of everyday life, including, without limitation, any of the following:

- (a) a physical, sensory, neurological, or intellectual impairment;
- (b) a mental illness.

Amend 4  
Jul 2001

Amend 5  
Oct 2011

**Pitch line** The line joining the leading edge or *nosings* (if any) of successive stair treads within a single flight of a *stairway*.

**Private stairway** A *stairway* used, or intended to be used, by the occupants of a single *household unit*.

**Secondary private stairway** A *private stairway* other than a *main* or *minor private stairway*, intended to provide access to another floor containing only bedrooms, bathroom or similar accommodation

**Service ramp** means a ramp that is used, or intended to be used, infrequently by service personnel to gain access to spaces for the purposes of maintenance and the movement of goods.

**Service stairway** means a *stairway* that is used, or intended to be used, infrequently by service personnel to gain access to spaces for the purposes of maintenance and the movement of goods.

**Stairway** A series of steps or stairs with or without landings, including all necessary *handrails* and giving access between two different levels.

**Threshold** A sill to an external door, or the floor under an internal door.



# Verification Method D1/VM1

No specific test methods have been adopted for verifying compliance with the Performance of NZBC D1.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017



# Acceptable Solution D1/AS1

## 1.0 General Criteria

### 1.1 Location

**1.1.1** Accessible routes shall be provided to give direct access to the principal entrance to the *building* where practical. If it is not practical, the alternative most direct practical route to the space served by the principal entrance shall be used. The route shall have signs complying with NZBC F8.

**1.1.2** Where a site has separate *buildings* as part of a single complex, *accessible routes* shall not deviate substantially from the convenient or direct route commonly used.

**1.1.3** Where *accessible units of Community service buildings* are provided, an *accessible route* shall connect all *accessible units* to reception areas, offices, shops, dining rooms, kitchens, laundries, ablution blocks, recreation rooms and any other communal facilities.

**1.1.4** Figure 1 illustrates an acceptable solution with provision for *people with disabilities* to approach *buildings*.

**1.1.5** Access routes which are part of an *escape route* shall also comply with NZBC C4.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

### 1.2 Slope

#### 1.2.1 Slope in direction of travel

Acceptable slopes for different types of *access routes* are shown in Figure 2.

#### 1.2.2 Cross fall

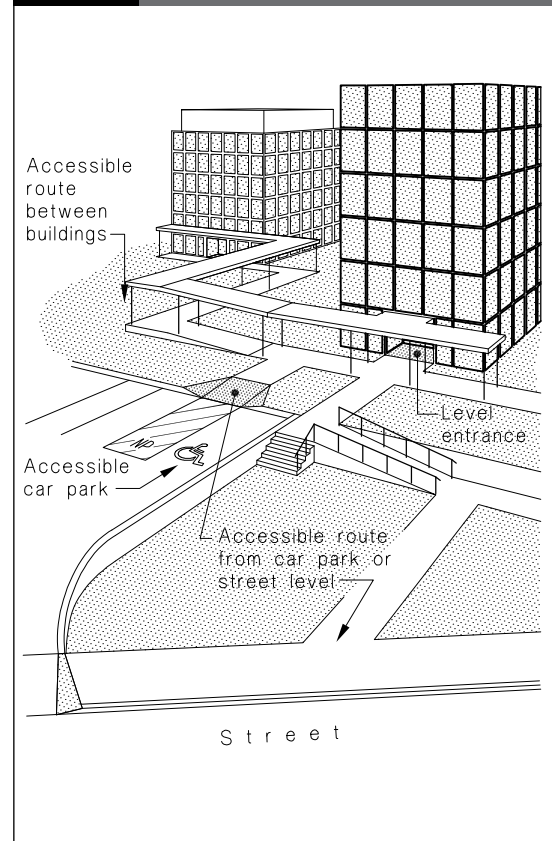
Where the surface of an *access route* or an *accessible route* is subject to wetting, the surface shall have a cross fall of no less than 1 in 100 unless it is constructed to drain water, such as timber decking or support on tiles with 5 mm gaps.

The surface of any *access route* (including an *accessible route*) shall not have a cross fall steeper than 1:50.

Additionally, the vertical variation between adjoining tiles or other flooring materials shall not be more than 3 mm for square edges or 5 mm for bevelled edges.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**Figure 1:** Approaching a Building  
Paragraph 1.1.4



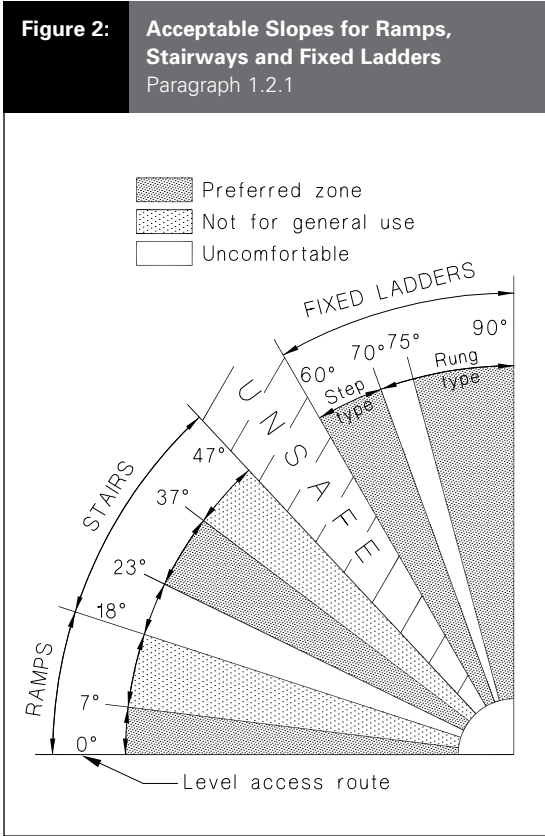
### 1.3 Changes in level

**1.3.1** Except in *household units* or where permitted by Paragraph 1.3.2, a single isolated step shall not be permitted but the change of level shall be constructed as a ramp complying with Paragraph 3.0.

**1.3.2 Threshold weather stops** projecting no more than 20 mm above the *threshold* finished surface are acceptable.

#### COMMENT:

*Threshold* weather stops greater than 20 mm should be designed as ramps complying with Paragraph 3.0. Height changes at doorways are particularly inconvenient for wheelchair users as it requires complex manoeuvring to get over the change in level while opening the door.



**Table 1: Height Clearances**  
Paragraph 1.4.1

Prone access spaces (e.g. sub-floor access, limited length)	450 mm
Crawl spaces for servicing (30 m max length)	800 mm
Pedestrian access routes (unlimited length)	2100 mm
Landings, stairways and corridors (less than 2 m in length)	2000 mm

**1.4 Height clearances**

**1.4.1** Access routes shall have height clearances complying with Table 1 and as shown in Figure 3.

**COMMENT:**

Particular care must be taken to ensure that there is adequate height clearance between the pitch line and the underside of an upper tread where spiral stairways are used.

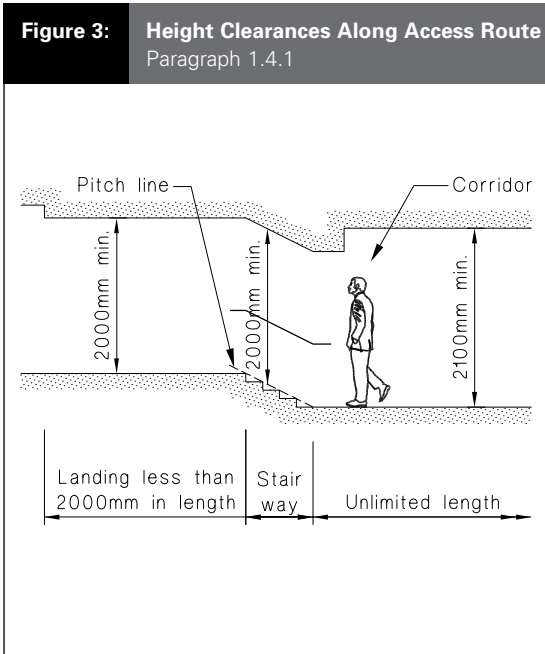
**1.5 Obstructions**

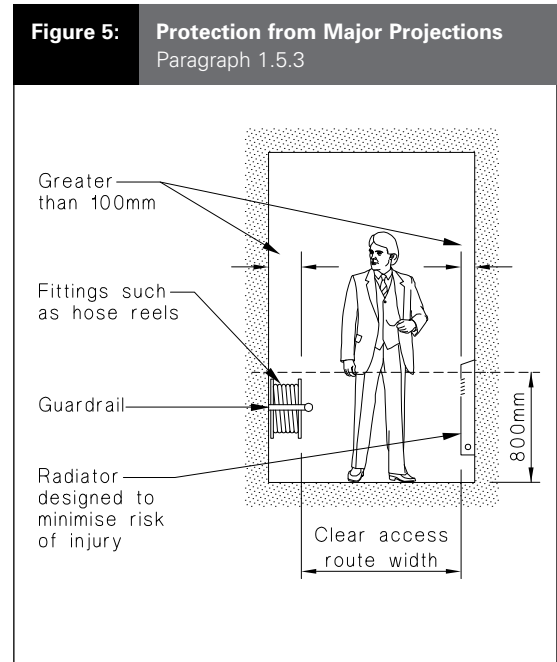
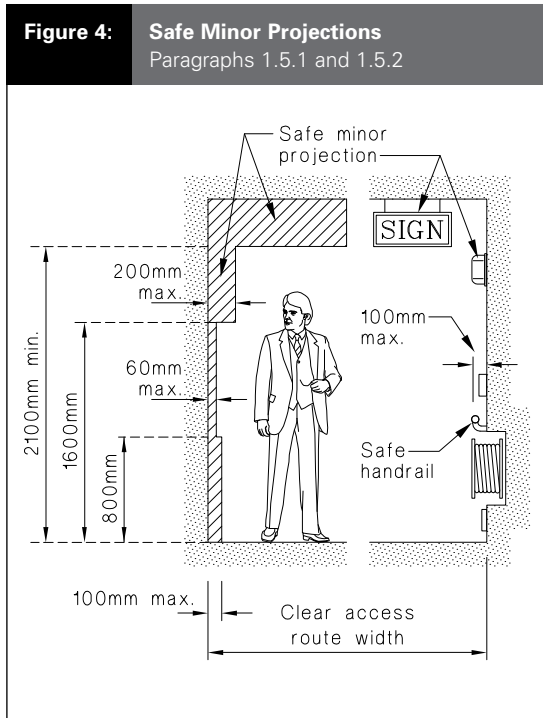
**1.5.1** A minor projection is permitted within the required clear width of an access route if it is designed to minimise the risk of injury or impact, and the projection is located:

- a) More than 1600 mm above floor level and projects less than 200 mm into the access route (Figure 4),
- b) Within the height 800 mm to 1600 mm above floor level and projects less than 60 mm into the access route, (Figure 4),
- c) Less than 800 mm above floor level and projects less than 100 mm into the access route (Figure 4).

**COMMENT:**

Light fittings less than 1600 mm above the floor would need to be recessed into the wall. A projection of 60 mm is sufficient to allow for electrical sockets, signs on walls, etc.





**1.5.2 Handrails** may be considered a minor projection if they project no more than:

- a) 100 mm into the *access route* (see Figure 4), or
- b) In the case of a centre *handrail*, 300 mm into a landing (see Figure 25).

**1.5.3 Major projections** (see Figure 5) are permitted if:

- a) The clear width of the *access route* is provided between the faces of the projections, and
- b) The transition between the face of the wall and the face of the projection is designed to minimise the risk of injury by impact.

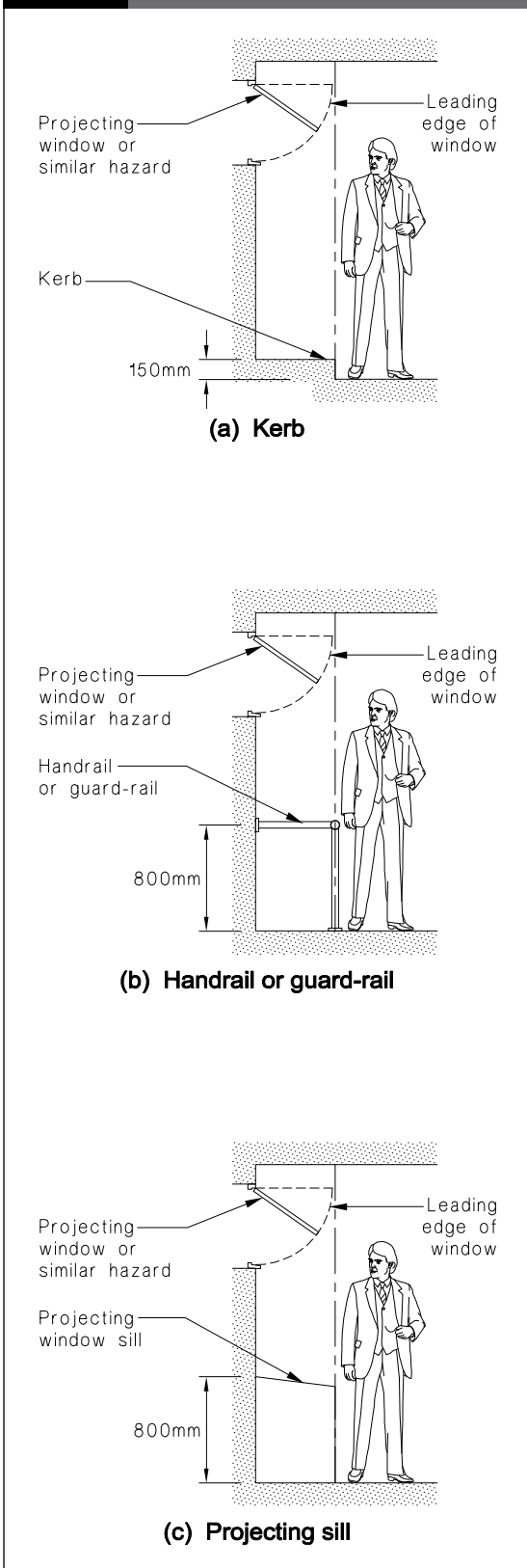
**1.5.4 Dangerous projections** – Windows, fittings or other dangerous obstructions may project into the space adjacent to an *access route* (see Figure 6) if users are protected from the projection by:

- a) A kerb provided at floor level which defines the extent of the projection, or
- b) A *handrail*, guard-rail, or other protection at sill level.

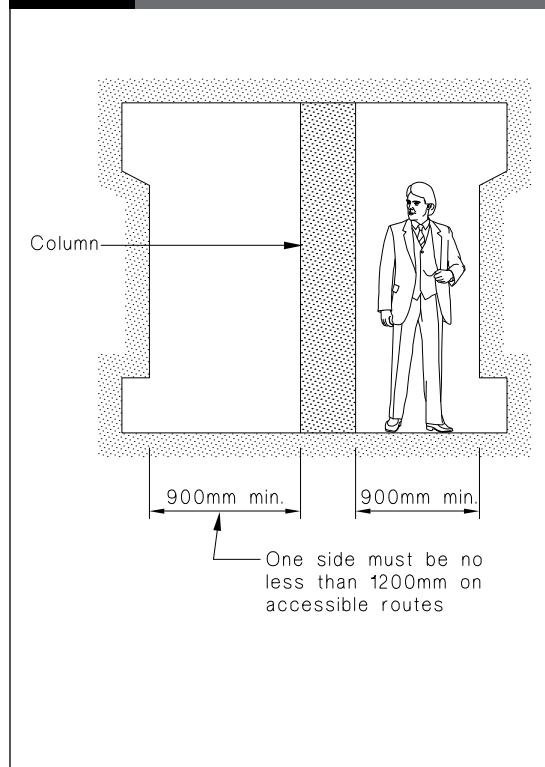
**COMMENT:**

1. Many *people with disabilities* require better lighting than is normally provided to highlight obstructions. This applies particularly with respect to the elderly and those with impaired sight.
2. Illumination should also highlight doors, signs, counters and other areas.
3. Lighting designers should avoid glare and sudden sharp changes in lighting levels. Diffused types of lighting are preferred.

**Figure 6: Protection from Dangerous Projections**  
Paragraph 1.5.4



**Figure 7: Protection from Isolated Columns**  
Paragraph 1.5.5



**1.5.5 Isolated columns** are permitted in an *access route* (see Figure 7) provided that:

- a) The column can be readily seen during normal use of the *building*, and
- b) A clear passage of no less than 900 mm is available on both sides; and, on an *accessible route*, a clear passage of no less than 1200 mm is available on at least one side.

**1.6 Structural stability**

**1.6.1** The *access route* including *handrails* shall comply with the strength and stiffness requirements of NZBC B1.

## 1.7 Barriers

**1.7.1** Barriers to prevent falling from the *access route* shall comply with NZBC F4.

**COMMENT:**

Barriers and *handrails*, having different functions, are considered separately in the *building code*. A barrier (or balustrade on a stair) is required to prevent people falling where there is a sudden change in level. A *handrail* is a graspable rail designed to guide and support people using a *stairway* or ramp. A *handrail* may be attached to or form the top of a barrier where the height is appropriate.

## 1.8 Lighting

**1.8.1** Artificial lighting complying with NZBC G8 shall be provided along the *access route*.

## 2.0 Access Routes

### 2.1 Slip resistance

**2.1.1 Scope:** This section provides means of complying with Performance D1.3.3(d): 'Access routes shall have adequate slip-resistant walking surfaces under all conditions of normal use.'

**2.1.2** For level *access routes* (including level *accessible routes*) expected to become wet with water in normal use, walking surfaces shall either:

- a) Have an SRV classification of not less than 39 from the wet pendulum test method of AS 4586 Appendix A using the Slider 96 rubber, or
- b) Use the materials listed in Table 2 as 'acceptable wet slip'.

**COMMENT:**

The most common area of buildings that becomes wet under normal use is at entrances where water can be tracked from the footpath.

The exceptions are:

- a) situations where safety matting is provided as described in 2.1.5
- b) for *housing* this requirement applies only to the access route on the approach to the main entrance and not inside that entrance and not on the approach to other entrances. The internal access routes of housing, including kitchens and bathrooms, shall be assumed to be dry in normal use.

**COMMENT:**

Bathroom floors in housing can become partially wet but safety is best managed using movable mats because most flooring materials with high slip resistance are not appropriate in this location.

- c) in areas that are primarily used barefoot, such as around swimming pools and adjacent to communal showers, Classification 'B' from the ramp method of AS 4586 Appendix C gives an acceptable slip resistance for walking surfaces.

Note 1: See 2.1.5 for stairs, steps and sloping *access routes* in buildings including *housing*.

Note 2: A slip resistance value of 0.4 when tested under AS/NZS 3661.1 may be assumed as equivalent to a SRV of 39.

**COMMENT:**

- a) The cleaning regime established by the building owner or manager should be such that it maintains the effectiveness of slip resistant walking surfaces. Unsuitable cleaning methods can reduce the slip resistance significantly. People may still slip even on slip resistant walking surfaces because other factors such as footwear and walking gait can affect their stability.
- b) Imported materials are often tested by a ramp test equivalent to Appendix D of NZS 4586. While this is an oil wet test using an industrial work shoe, an R11 result will often be equivalent to an SRV of 39 for water wet conditions. Additionally, the ramp test is suitable for heavily profiled surfaces for which Appendix A is not applicable.

**2.1.3** For level *access routes* expected to remain dry under normal use, a co-efficient of friction not less than 0.40 for walking surface materials from the friction test method of AS 4586 Appendix B is acceptable. Alternatively, the materials specified in Table 2 as 'acceptable dry slip' may be used without testing.

**2.1.4** For industrial and commercial situations, AS 4586 Appendix D is an acceptable method of determining the slip resistance of walking surfaces that may be contaminated by oils and similar slip-inducing materials in use.

**COMMENT:**

HB 198 in Table 3B lists suggested *R-values* for a range of commercial situations.

Some processing activities will require floors with a profiled or displacement surface. The evaluation method given by Appendix E of NZS 4586 can be used to measure displacement area.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017**Table 2: Slip Resistance for Walking Surfaces**

Walking surface <sup>(12)</sup>	Level surface <sup>(1)</sup>		Sloping surface <sup>(2)</sup> or stairs <sup>(3)</sup>	
	Acceptable dry slip resistance	Acceptable wet slip resistance	Acceptable dry slip resistance	Acceptable wet slip resistance
<b>Timber</b>				
Uncoated smooth	Yes	No	No	No
Uncoated profiled <sup>(4)</sup>				
– across profile	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test
– along profile	Yes	No	No	No
Coated (paint, polyurethane, etc)	Yes	No	No	No
Coated and sand/grit impregnated <sup>(5)</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Portland cement concrete</b>				
Smooth trowelled finish (Class U3) <sup>(6)</sup>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Broomed (Class 5 or 6) <sup>(6)</sup> or wood float finish (Class U2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coated (paint, polyurethane, etc)	Yes	No	No	No
Coated and sand/grit impregnated <sup>(5)</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exposed aggregate finish				
– rounded aggregate	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
– crushed aggregate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Asphaltic concrete</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Marble and granite</b>				
Polished surface <sup>(7)</sup>	Yes	No	No	No
Honed finish <sup>(8)</sup>	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
Flamed finish	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fully sandblasted surface <sup>(8)</sup>	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
Patterned sandblasted surface	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>
<b>Split slate</b>	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
<b>Terrazzo</b>				
Polished	Yes	Test	No	No
Honed	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
<b>Sandstone</b>				
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test
<b>Ceramic tiles</b>				
Unglazed				
– smooth finish	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
– profiled	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>
– grit finish	Yes	Test <sup>(10)</sup>	Yes	Test <sup>(10)</sup>
Glazed				
– smooth or polished finish <sup>(7)</sup>	Yes	No	No	No
– profiled	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>
– grit finish	Yes	Test <sup>(10)</sup>	Yes	Test <sup>(10)</sup>
<b>Clay pavers</b>				
Wire cut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test
Smooth texture	Yes	Test	Yes	Test

Amend 6  
Jan 2017



Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**Table 2: Slip Resistance for Walking Surfaces (cont'd)**

Walking surface <sup>(12)</sup>	Level surface <sup>(1)</sup>		Sloping surface <sup>(2)</sup> or stairs <sup>(3)</sup>	
	Acceptable dry slip resistance	Acceptable wet slip resistance	Acceptable dry slip resistance	Acceptable wet slip resistance
<b>Concrete pavers</b>				
Dry press concrete	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test
Interlocking concrete block paving <sup>(11)</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test
Moulded surface (e.g. simulated slate or concrete cobbles)	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
<b>Compressed fibre-cement sheet</b>				
Uncoated	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test
Coated (paint, polyurethane, etc)	Yes	No	No	No
Coated and sand impregnated <sup>(5)</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Rubber tiles/sheeting</b>				
Smooth	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
Profiled	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>
<b>Vinyl and linoleum</b>				
Smooth or with imprinted pattern	Yes	Test	Yes	No
Profiled (studs or ribs)	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>	Yes	Test <sup>(9)</sup>
Grit/flaked finish	Yes	Test	Yes	Test
<b>Carpet</b>				
Tufted or loop pile <sup>(13)</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Artificial turf <sup>(13)</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Timber composites (chipboard, cork tiles, etc)</b>				
Uncoated	Yes	No	Yes	No
Coated (paint, polyurethane, etc)	Yes	No	No	No
Coated and sand/grit impregnated <sup>(5)</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Anti-slip tapes<sup>(14)</sup></b>				
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

See page 24 for notes to Table 2.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017**Table 2: Slip Resistance for Walking Surfaces (cont'd)**

## Notes:

1. Level surfaces including surfaces with slopes no steeper than 1:50.
2. Sloping surfaces with slopes greater than 1:50 but less than 1:10 for wet conditions, or less than 1:8 for dry conditions.
3. Acceptability as shown is based on stair treads without slip resistant *nosings*. When testing stair treads without *nosings* acceptability for slip resistance should be on a slope of 1:10. With slip resistant *nosings* at least 50 mm wide, acceptability criteria for stair treads is based on the requirements for level surfaces.
4. Profile at right angles to direction of pedestrian traffic. Algal growth on uncoated timber walkways significantly reduces slip resistance when wet and requires regular removal, e.g. by high pressure waterblasting.
5. The sand/grit, which is sprinkled over the complete surface of the final paint coating, should be a hard angular material such as silica sand or calcined bauxite. The particle size should not be less than 0.2 mm so that it is not submerged by the coating and not greater than about 2 – 3 mm so that it remains tightly bound to the surface. If overpainted, testing is required to establish acceptability of slip resistance.
6. Concrete surface finishes complying with NZS 3114.
7. Glazed or polished surfaces are unsuitable in either wet or dry conditions for sloping surfaces or for stairs because of the effect of foot placement, even though test measurements may indicate adequacy.
8. The coefficient of friction can vary significantly with the extent of surface preparation.
9. It is noted in AS 4586 that the pendulum slip resistance tests prescribed in that Standard may not be suitable for heavily profiled (or patterned) surfaces.
10. When the grit finish has a “feel” rougher than 80 grit sandpaper, the surface may be deemed to have acceptable wet slip resistance, for either level or sloping surfaces or for stair treads, without testing.
11. Interlocking concrete block paving to NZS 3116.
12. To meet durability requirements of NZBC B2, the surface should have at least a five year life under normal maintenance.
13. Validity of the listed typical values for coefficient of friction is uncertain as the test methods may not be applicable to carpets.
14. Anti-slip tapes will normally require regular replacement to remain effective. To ensure foot contact, tapes should be placed at right angles to the line of travel and be spaced at no more than 150 mm centres.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017Amend 6  
Jan 2017Amend 6  
Jan 2017Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**2.1.5** For sloping *access routes* including stairs AS 4586 Appendix F shall be used to derive the appropriate slip classification for walking surfaces at various slopes. Alternatively, Table 2 lists surfaces that are acceptable for stairs as well as sloping surfaces within a limited range of slopes (see Note 2). A P4 rating from the wet pendulum test is also acceptable for stairs and for ramps not steeper than 1:12

**COMMENT:**

- a) Most commonly-used walking surface materials have acceptable dry slip resistance on level surfaces, but some may not be acceptable on sloping surfaces or stairs even when dry, as indicated by Table 2.
- b) Paragraphs 3.1.4 and 4.1.4 require ramp and stair surfaces to comply with Table 2 but testing to AS 4586 Appendix A or B is another option. Note 3 to Table 2 provides for stair materials to be tested to AS 4586 on the basis of a 1:10 slope.

**2.1.6** Except in *housing*, the transition zone between any part of the *access route* which is intended to remain dry under normal usage and that part of the *access route* which may become wet during normal usage shall be provided with:

- a) Water absorbent matting across the width of the effective walkway with a sufficient dimension in the direction of the pedestrian traffic to remove water which may be tracked by footwear, or
- b) An extension of the wet slip resistant walking surface for sufficient distance from the point at which water can be tracked indoors (normally from the entrance portal) to allow water to be shed from footwear, or
- c) A combination of a) and b) above.

**COMMENT:**

1. The dimension of the transition zone in the direction of pedestrian traffic is dependent upon the usage, however either:
  - a) The absorbent matting should be of sufficient size to allow for at least one (preferably two) contacts between each foot with normally spaced footfalls. (As a guide, the minimum dimension is 1.8 m, but this could be reduced if the design of the entranceway restricts the spacing of the footfalls, e.g. an entranceway incorporating a revolving door), or
  - b) The wet slip resistant walking surface should extend typically 6 m to 10 m from the entrance portal.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

2. The absorbent matting should be either fixed in place (e.g. by a mat well) or should adequately grip the underlying flooring and should be of a design (e.g. with a heavy rubber backing) which will not curl up at the edges.
3. A cleaning/replacement regime should be established by the building operator to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the matting.

**2.2 Width**

**2.2.1** The clear width of an *accessible route* shall be no less than 1200 mm.

**COMMENT:**

*Handrails* and other minor obstructions complying with Paragraphs 1.5.1 and 1.5.2 are permitted to intrude into this width.

**2.3 Protection from falling**

**2.3.1** Where the surface of an *accessible route* is more than 25 mm above the adjacent ground, protection is to be provided by either a 75 mm upstand (kerb) or a low barrier rail.

**3.0 Ramps**

**3.1 Slope**

**3.1.1** The maximum acceptable slopes for ramps are given in Table 3. The choice of slope must take account of the type of use and risk of slipping.

**3.1.2** *Service ramps* steeper than 1 in 8 shall have footholds complying with Figure 8 and Table 4.

**Table 3: Acceptable Ramp Slopes**  
Paragraph 3.1.1

Type of ramp	Maximum slope
Accessible ramp	1:12
Common ramp subject to wetting	1:10
Common ramp normally dry	1:8
Service ramps	1:3

**Table 4: Foothold Spacing for Service Ramps**  
Paragraph 3.1.2

Ramp slope	Spacing (mm)	
	Goods carried	No goods carried
1:6	360	460
1:5	330	430
1:4	300	400
1:3	280	380

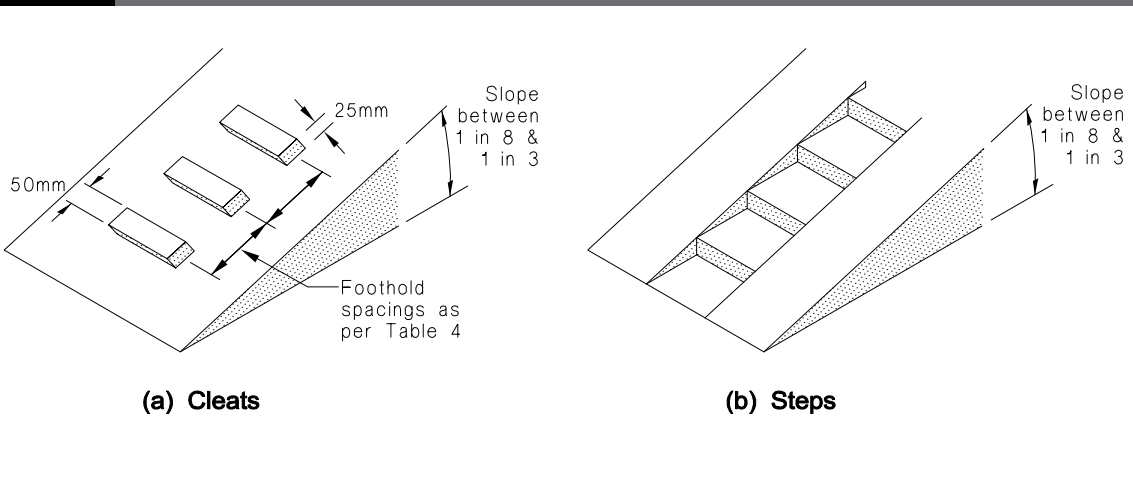
**3.1.3** *Accessible ramps* shall have an upstand no less than 75 mm in height on any drop-off side of a ramp (see Figure 9).

**COMMENT:**

*Handrails* are not required on *accessible routes* with slopes flatter than 1 in 20, but the requirements of Paragraph 2.3.1 apply.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**Figure 8: Service Ramps Footholds**  
Paragraph 3.1.2



Amend 4  
Jul 2001

**3.1.4 Slip resistance** – Any slip resistant surface complying with Table 2 is acceptable for the ramp surface.

**COMMENT:**

1. The slopes to which Table 2 applies are limited. See Notes 1 and 2 to that table. See also Paragraph 2.1.5.
2. Glazed or polished walking surfaces are normally unsuitable for *common ramps* (see Table 2, Notes).

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

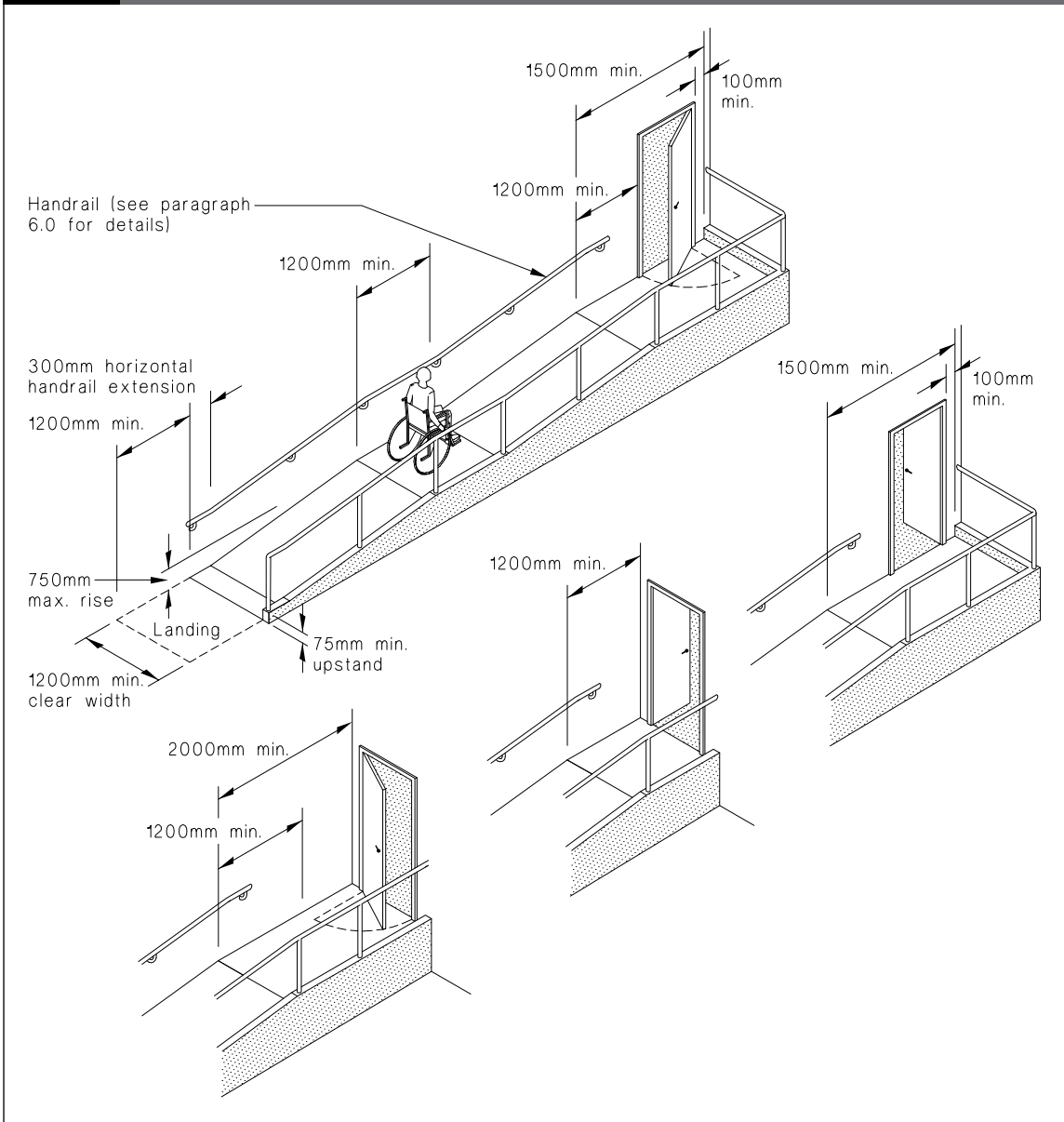
**3.2 Width**

The clear width of an *accessible ramp* shall be 1200 mm.

**3.3 Landings**

**3.3.1** Landings shall be level, and be provided at the top and bottom of all ramps. For any ramp steeper than 1 in 33, intermediate landings are to be provided at the vertical intervals given in Table 5 and Figure 9.

**Figure 9: Accessible Ramps**  
Paragraphs 3.1.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.3, 6.0.3, 6.0.4 and 7.0.2



**Table 5: Landings**  
Paragraphs 3.3.1 and 3.3.3

Ramp type	Maximum rise between landings (mm)	Length of landing (mm)
<b>Accessible</b>	750 <sup>(1)</sup>	1200
Other	1500	Ramp width but need not be greater than 900

Note:  
1. 750 mm is the reasonable maximum level difference for a person to negotiate in a wheelchair.

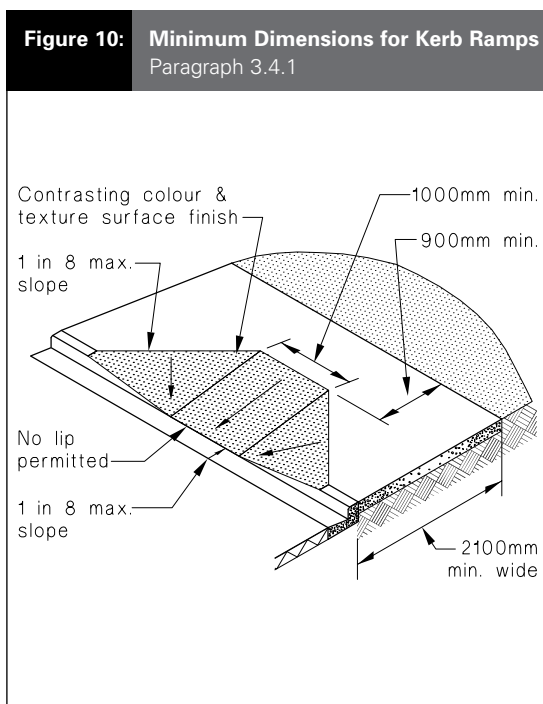
**3.3.2** Landing width shall be no less than the minimum width of the ramp it serves.

**3.3.3** Landing length shall comply with Table 5 and Figure 9.

**3.4 Kerb ramps**

**3.4.1** Kerb ramps (see Figure 10) shall have:

- a) A slope of no greater than 1 in 8, and
- b) Colour and texture contrast with the adjacent footpath.



**COMMENT:**

Kerb ramps allow the safe and easy movement of wheeled trolleys and prams, as well as wheelchairs.

**4.0 Stairways**

**4.1 Pitch, risers and treads**

**4.1.1** Acceptable *stairway pitch line* slopes, and step riser heights are given in Table 6 and Figure 11.

**COMMENT:**

- 1. Figure 11 and Table 6 refer to several types of stair. Descriptions for all these types of stair and where they are to be used are given in the Definitions section.
- 2. Stairs having a *pitch line* slope of less than 23° do not permit a person to use the stair with an acceptable gait. Dangerous falls occur where the rhythm of movement is broken.

**4.1.2** The method of measuring risers and treads is shown in Figure 12. If a landing on an outside *stairway* is formed by ground sloping across the width of the flight, the rise is measured at mid-width.

**4.1.3 Uniformity** – Riser height and tread depth for all steps in one flight, shall be uniform within the tolerance of ± 5 mm measured at the centreline on straight flights and at the *pitch line* on curved and spiral flights.

**COMMENT:**

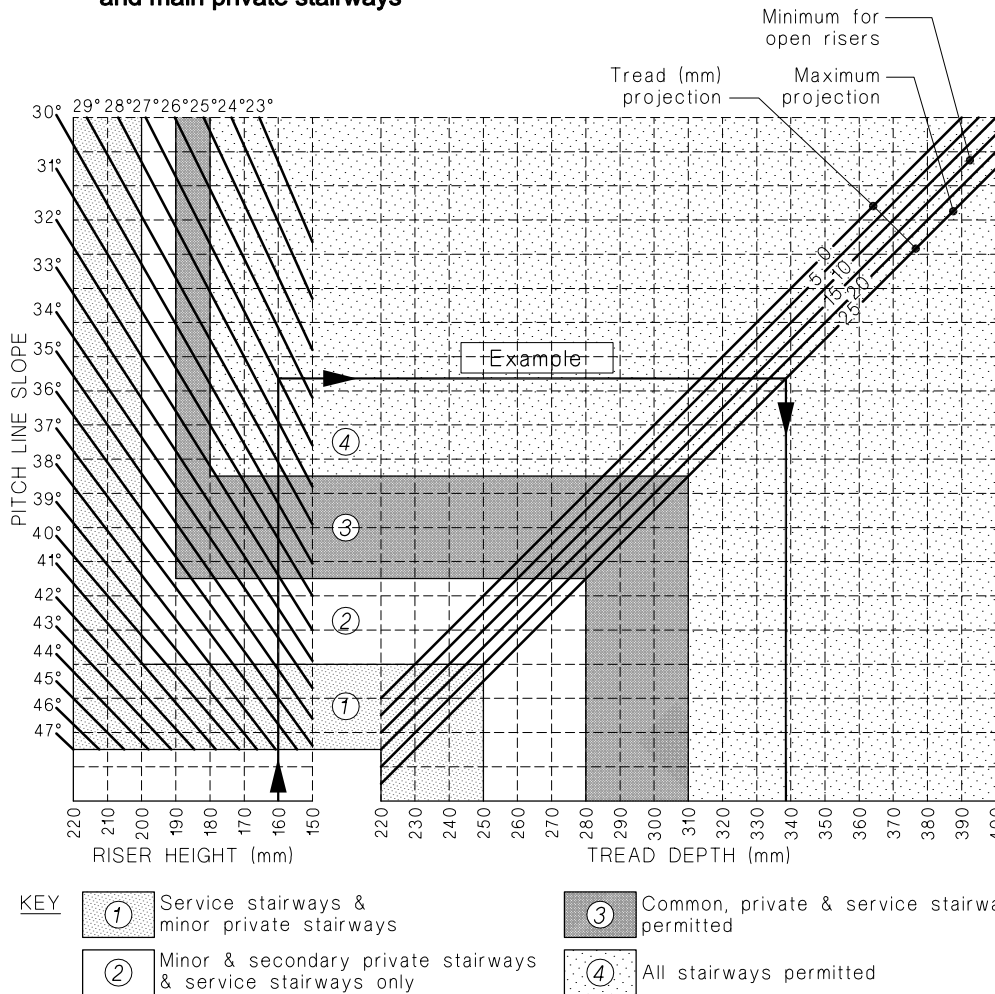
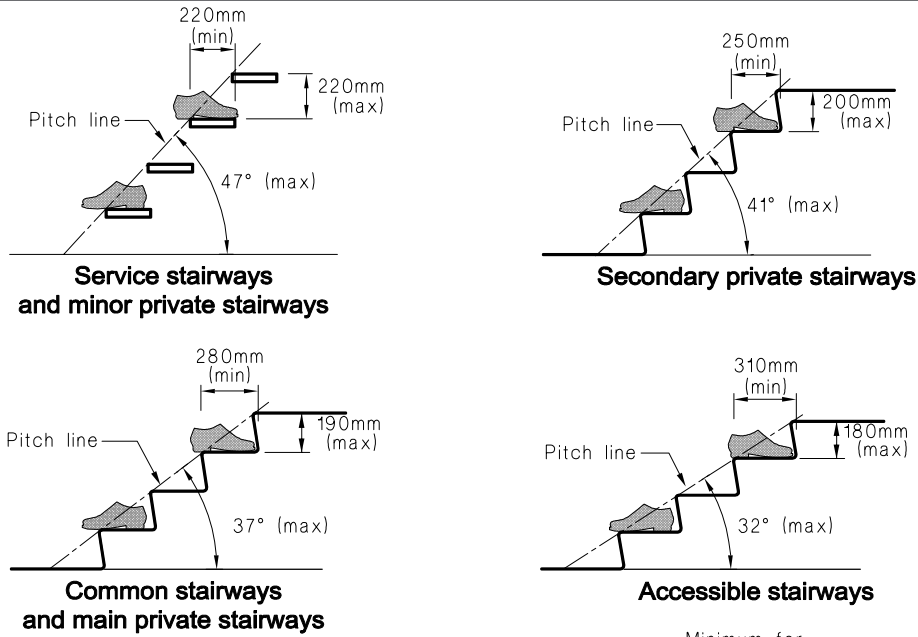
The foot is normally only lifted a few mm above the treads during ascent. A minor variation in riser height can cause someone to stumble.

**Table 6: Design Limits for Stairs**  
Paragraphs 4.1.1, 4.1.4 a), 4.4.2, 4.5.1 a) and Figure 17

Stair	Maximum pitch	Maximum riser height (mm)	Minimum tread (mm)
Service, minor private	47°	220	220
Secondary private	41°	200	250
Common and main private	37°	190	280
Accessible	32°	180	310

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

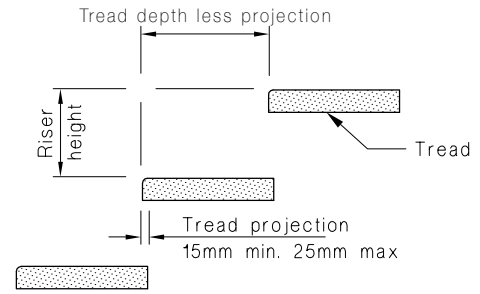
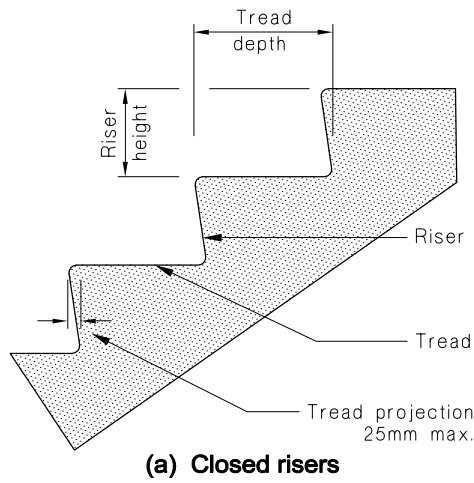
**Figure 11: Pitch, Risers and Treads for Stairs**  
 Paragraphs 4.1.1, 4.1.4, 4.4.2, 4.5.1 a) and Figure 17



**Example of accessible stairway**

For a riser height of 160mm, pitch line slope of 27° and tread projection of 25mm, the design tread depth is 340mm.

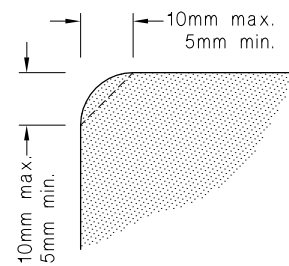
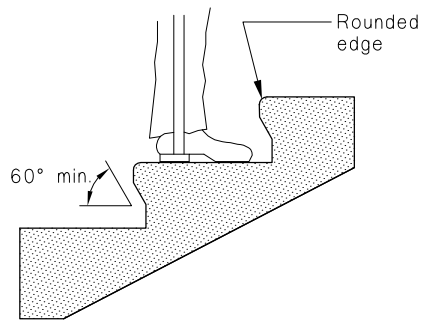
**Figure 12: Measurement of Rise and Tread Depth**  
Paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.1.6



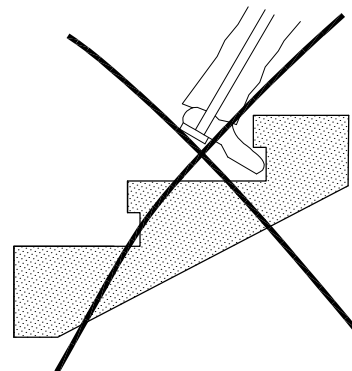
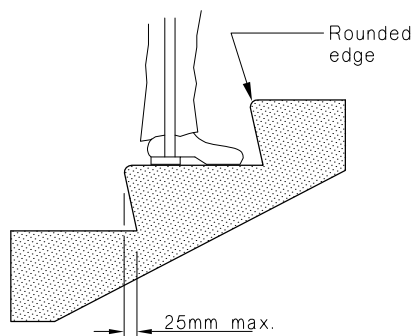
Not permitted for accessible stairways

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**Figure 13: Accessible Stairway Projections**  
Paragraph 4.1.7



Dimensions for rounded leading edge of stairs



**4.1.4 Stair treads** – Acceptable stair treads (see Figure 11) have:

- a) A tread depth of no less than that specified in Table 6,
- b) A level surface,
- c) Slip resistant surfaces complying with Table 2.

**COMMENT:**

1. Adequate tread depth is essential for *stairway* safety. Analysis of *stairway* related accidents shows that overstepping of treads is a common cause of accidents.
2. Glazed or polished surfaces are normally unsuitable for stair treads unless the stairs are fitted with slip resistant *nosings*. (See Table 2, Notes 3 and 7.)

**4.1.5** Service stairs having treads less than 250 mm in depth shall have open risers.

**4.1.6 Tread projection** – Figure 12 illustrates acceptable projections for the leading edge of successive stair treads. Limiting dimensions are:

- a) For open risers – 15 mm minimum and 25 mm maximum,
- b) For closed risers – nil projection minimum, and 25 mm maximum.

**4.1.7** Leading edges of treads or *nosings* (if any) on *accessible stairways* shall:

- a) Be rounded to avoid a sharp edge (see Figure 13), and
- b) Be colour contrasted with the rest of the tread.

**COMMENT:**

Visibility of the stair tread is essential for stair safety. The difference between two dark colours does not necessarily provide sufficient tonal contrast to allow the edge of the tread to be seen by a *person* with impaired vision. The lighting levels required by Paragraph 4.5 are essential for *stairway* safety.

**4.1.8 Open risers**

- a) To prevent children falling or becoming held fast, the space between treads shall not permit the passage of a 100 mm sphere in areas frequented by children under 6 years of age.
- b) Open risers are not to be used within *accessible stairways*, and may be used on *common stairways* only if both the following criteria are satisfied:
  - i) there is an *accessible stairway* available as an alternative, and
  - ii) leading edges of the *nosings* are colour contrasted with the rest of the tread.

**COMMENT:**

1. Paragraph 4.1.8 a) does not apply to stairs within *Industrial Buildings, Outbuildings or Ancillary buildings*, or other *stairways* in areas not frequented by children under 6 years of age.
2. Open risers are hazardous to ambulant *people with disabilities*. People who wear leg braces or prosthetic devices need a solid riser to guide the foot up over the riser to the next step and to maintain balance.

**4.2 Width**

**4.2.1** The width between *handrails* on an *accessible stairway* or between *handrail* and wall on a *common stairway* shall be no less than 900 mm.

**COMMENT:**

While no minimum width is given for *stairways* within *household units* it should be noted that C/AS2 Paragraph 3.3.2 for risk group SM (multi-unit dwellings) requires a minimum stair width of 850 mm. This is also a practical minimum requirement for any *private stairway*.

Narrow *private stairways* can make the movement of furniture difficult, if not impossible.

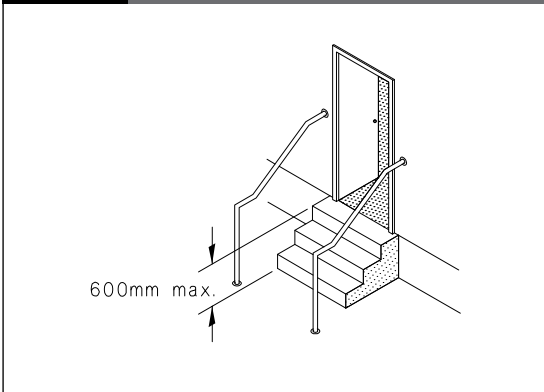
Amend 6  
Jan 2017

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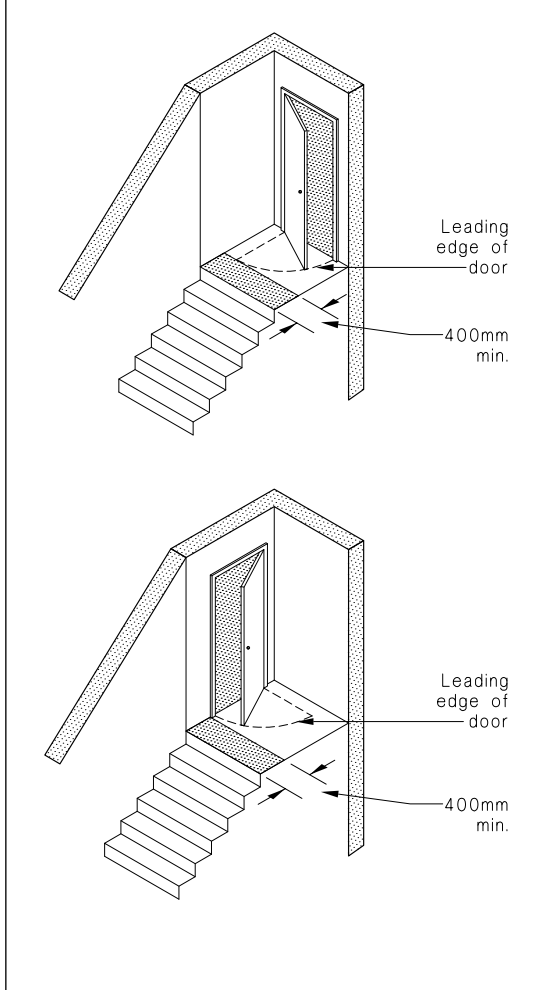
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**Figure 14: Landings Not Required at Door Locations**  
Paragraph 4.3.1



**Figure 15: Clearances at Door Locations**  
Paragraph 4.3.5



**Table 7: Rise Between Landings**  
Paragraph 4.3.2

Stairway type	Maximum rise between landings (m)
Private	4.0
Service	4.0
Common	2.5
Accessible	2.5

**4.3 Landings**

**4.3.1 Landings required** – Landings shall be provided at the top and bottom of every flight of stairs, ramp or ladder, or where a door opens into the *stairway*. A landing need not be provided between a flight and a door where the rise of the flight is no more than 600 mm and the door slides or opens away from the steps (see Figure 14).

**4.3.2 The maximum rise** between successive landings shall comply with Table 7. (See also Figure 25.)

**4.3.3 Landing width** shall be no less than the minimum width of the *access route* it serves.

**4.3.4 Landing length** shall be no less than 900 mm.

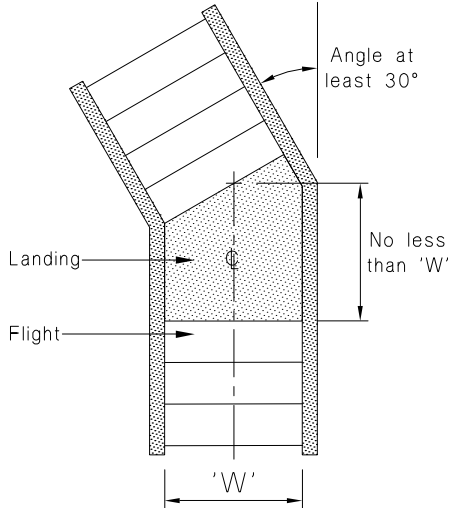
**4.3.5 Obstructions** – Landings shall be clear of any permanent obstruction. A clear space of at least 400 mm across the full width of the landing shall be available beyond the outer arc formed by any opening door (see Figure 15).

**4.3.6 Arresting a falling user** – The line of sight between landings more than 8.0 m apart vertically shall be broken by one or more of the following methods:

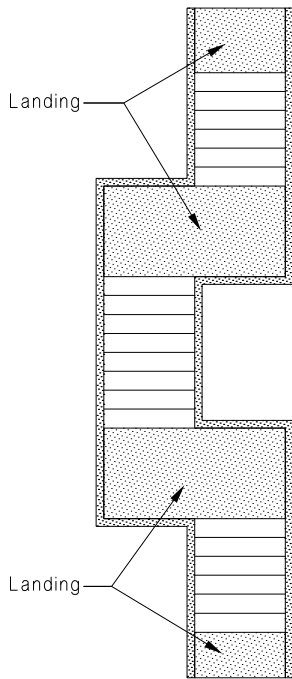
- a) Off-setting the alignment of adjacent flights.
- b) Changing the direction of at least one flight by a minimum angle of 30° (see Figure 16).
- c) Providing a landing of no less than 1800 mm in length.

**Figure 16: Stairway Direction Changes at Landings**  
Paragraph 4.3.6

Direction changes limit the potential accident fall distances to one flight.



**(a) Change in direction within a stairway**

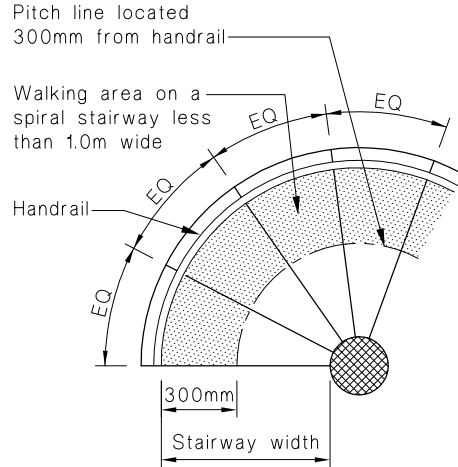


**(b) Offset within stairway**

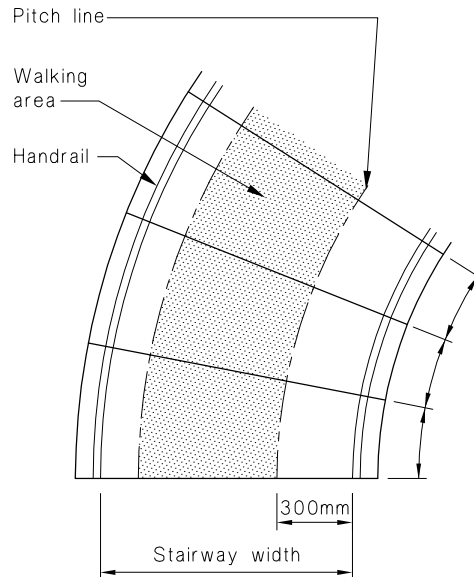
**Figure 17: Curved Stairway with Tapered Treads**  
Paragraphs 4.4.1 a) and b) and 4.5.2

Note: Tread depth and riser height measured on the pitch line shall comply with Table 6 and Figure 11.

Amend 4  
Jul 2001



**(a) Spiral stairway width less than 1000mm**  
(Private and service stairway only)



**(b) Curved stairway width 1000mm or greater**  
(Acceptable as an accessible stairway where handrails are installed on both sides as shown)

Amend 4  
Jul 2001

**4.4 Curved and spiral stairways**

**4.4.1 Curved and spiral stairways**

with tapered treads shall have their *pitch line* located:

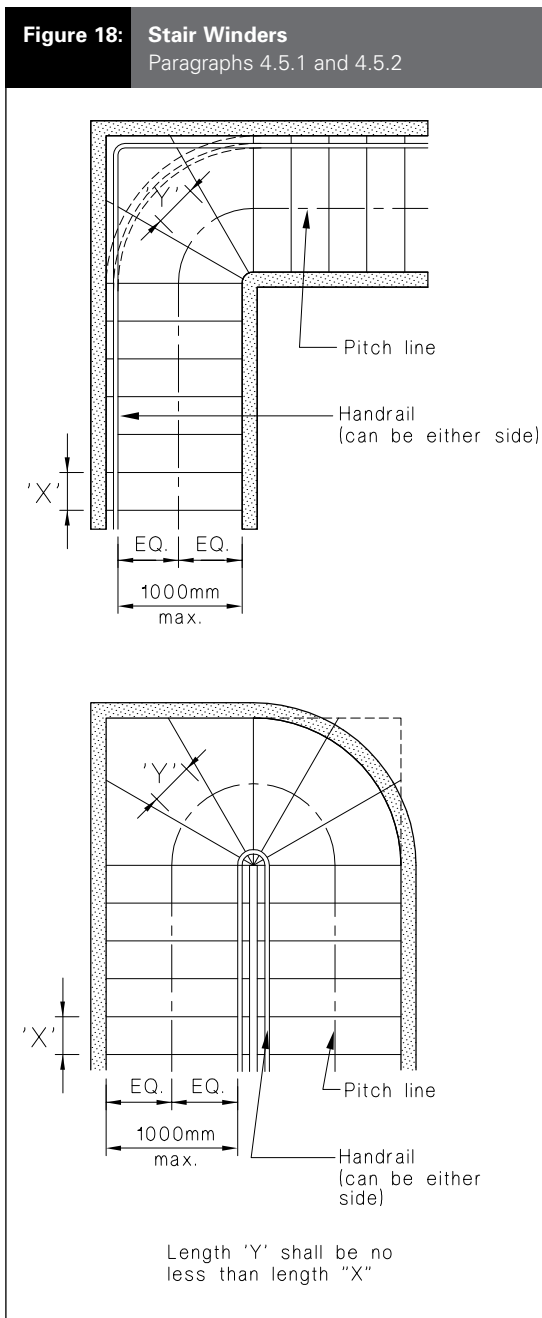
- a) For a spiral stairway of width less than 1000 mm – as shown in Figure 17 (a)), and
- b) For a curved stairway of width 1000 mm or greater – as shown in Figure 17 (b)).

BS 5395: Part 2 is an acceptable solution for spiral *stairways* having a diameter of no less than 1500 mm.

**COMMENT:**

1. The dimensions of Figure 17 are based on the assumption that people walk up and down only on the outside of a narrow *stairway*, but both the inside and outside of wider *stairways*.
2. Spiral *stairways* complying with BS 5395.2 and being less than 1500 mm in diameter (measured to the inside of *handrail*), may be acceptable as an additional means of access to spaces adequately served by alternative *access routes*.

**4.4.2 Consecutive tapered treads** shall have uniform taper angles. *Pitch line* slope, riser height and tread depth along both *pitch lines* shall comply with Table 6 and Figure 11.



**4.5 Stair winders**

**4.5.1** Winders are acceptable on *private stairways* and *service stairways* provided that all the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) Riser heights and tread depths on the *pitch line* comply with Table 6 and Figure 11.
- b) Riser height is uniform and the same as that on the adjoining straight flights of stairs.
- c) Tread depth on the *pitch line* is no less than that on adjoining straight flights of stairs.
- d) Winders have a uniform taper angle.
- e) Consecutive winders do not turn through an angle of more than 180°.

**4.5.2** For a *stairway* width of less than 1000 mm the *pitch line* shall be located as shown in Figure 18. For widths of 1000 mm or more, the *pitch line* shall be located as shown in Figure 17 (b)).

**4.5.3** BS 585: Part 1 is an acceptable solution for winders on *stairways* having a width of between 770 and 1200 mm.

**4.6 Visibility of stair treads**

**4.6.1** To ensure that the leading edge of stair treads can be easily seen, the lighting levels given in Table 8 shall be provided.

**4.6.2** Except for external *private stairways*, switches for *stairway* lighting shall be able to be activated at:

- a) The top of the *stairway*,
- b) The bottom of the *stairway*, and
- c) Any intermediate landings having access to or from any floor.

**5.0 Fixed Ladders**

**5.1 General**

**5.1.1 Types of fixed ladders**

- a) Step-type ladders (see Figure 19),
- b) Rung-type ladders (see Figure 20),
- c) Individual rung-type ladders (see Figure 24).

Rung-type ladders shall not be used where frequent access and the carriage of tools, equipment or materials are required.

**COMMENT:**

1. Where ladders are proposed, due consideration needs to be given to all relevant factors affecting the user's safety including:
  - the reason for access (e.g. plant servicing or inspection of passive *building elements* such as roofs)
  - the intended frequency of use
  - the need to carry tools or materials by hand.

Rung-type ladders are not considered suitable for any part of an *access route* to a lift machine room or similar mechanical plant room where service access is required at least monthly and tools or materials need to be carried. Rung-type ladders are however considered appropriate to areas such as roofs, pits, silos, towers, chimneys and tanks where access is required infrequently and tools and materials are only occasionally carried.

2. Ladders are acceptable in *Housing* for access to infrequently used spaces such as attics and lofts.

BS EN 14975 is an acceptable solution for retractable ladders to lofts and attics in *housing* and for maintenance access in other *buildings*.

**5.1.2 Ladder enclosures** – People shall be protected from falling from all fixed ladders which rise more than 6.0 m above the ground level or rise from a landing or platform. An acceptable solution for safety hoops and longitudinal straps (see Figure 21) shall have:

- a) Hoops and straps fabricated from 50 mm x 8 mm grade 250 steel,
- b) Hoops dimensioned as shown in Figure 21, and spaced at no more than 1000 mm intervals,
- c) The highest hoop level with the top of the barrier on the platform being accessed, and
- d) The lowest hoop 2.5 m above the ground or platform.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

Luminaire type	Lighting output Watts/m <sup>2</sup>	
	Private and service stairways	Accessible and common stairways
Incandescent (plastic shade)	20	30
Incandescent (general diffusing enclosure)	25	35
Flourescent 36/58 W cool white (enclosed diffusing fitting)	7	10
Flourescent compact single ended 16-38 W (enclosed diffusing fitting)	10	15
Discharge 50/80 W mercury or high pressure sodium (enclosed diffusing fitting)	7	10

**Notes:**  
The values given are based on:

- 150 lux at tread level for *accessible* and *common stairways*.
- 100 lux at tread level for *private* and *service stairways*.
- A stair lobby 7 m by 4 m including two landings and a single flight of stairs.
- Light coloured walls and ceilings and medium coloured floors.

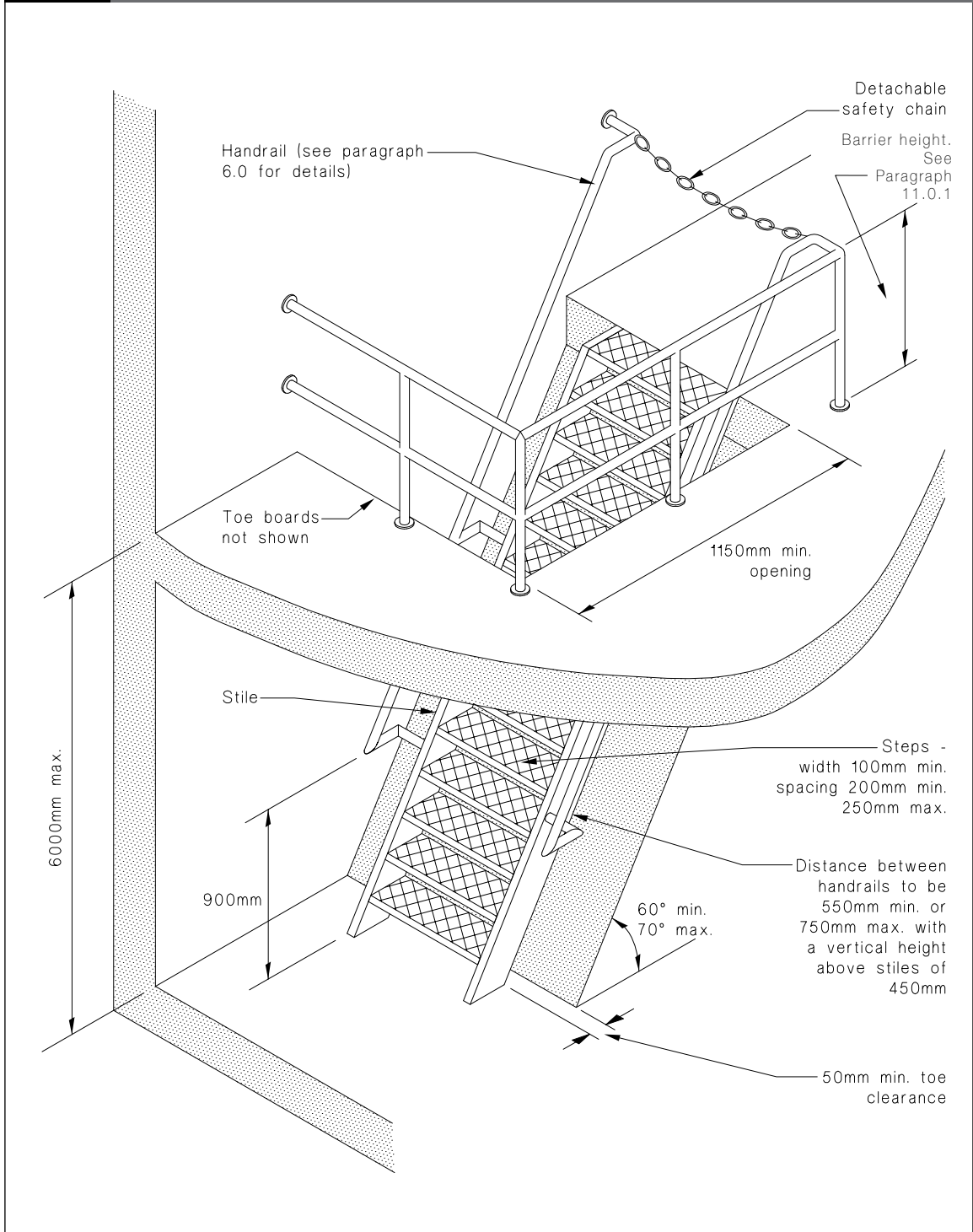
**Table 8:** Lighting for Stairways Paragraph 4.6.1

**5.1.3 Location** – A fixed ladder within an *access route* shall be located to avoid danger to *persons* working or walking beneath the ladder while it is being climbed.

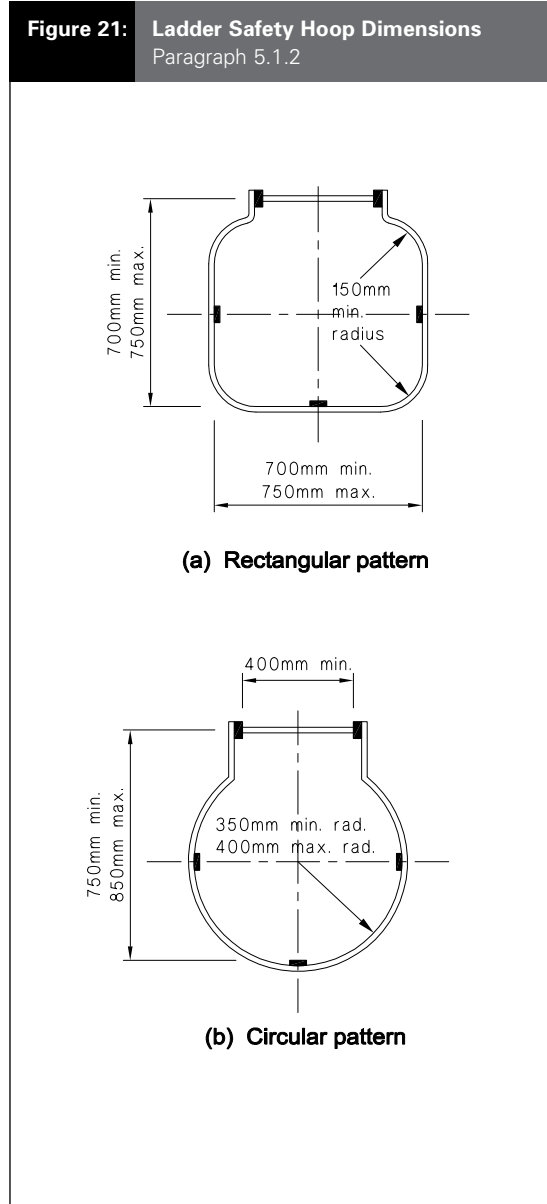
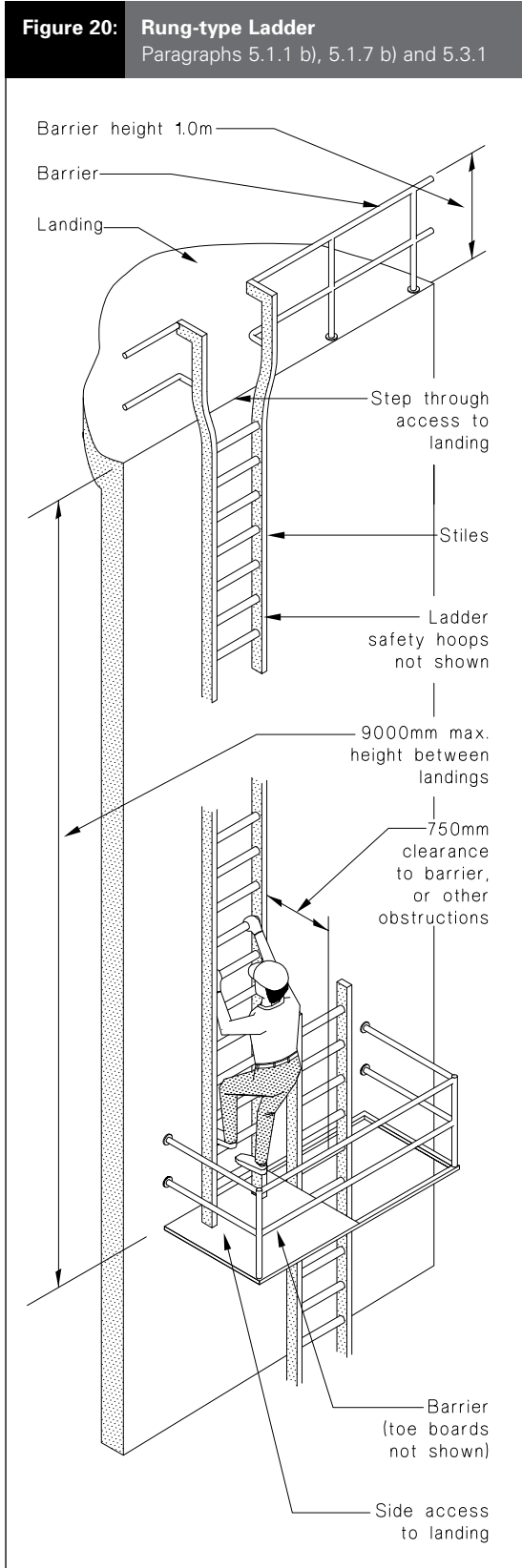
**5.1.4 Landing width** shall be no less than the width of the ladder it serves.

**5.1.5 Landing length** shall be the width of the ladder it serves, but no less than 1.5 m if required by Paragraph 5.1.7.

**Figure 19: Step-type Ladder**  
Paragraphs 5.1.1 a) and 5.2.1



Amend 6  
Jan 2017



**5.1.6 Uniformity** – The distance between successive rungs or treads within the same ladder installation must be uniform within a tolerance of  $\pm 5.0$  mm.

**5.1.7 Arresting a falling user** – An installation with more than one ladder section and a total height exceeding 6.0 m, shall in addition to a ladder enclosure, have:

- a) A direction change between successive ladders at each landing, or
- b) Successive ladders offset at each landing (see Figure 20), or
- c) Landings no less than 1.5 m long.

**5.2 Step-type ladders**

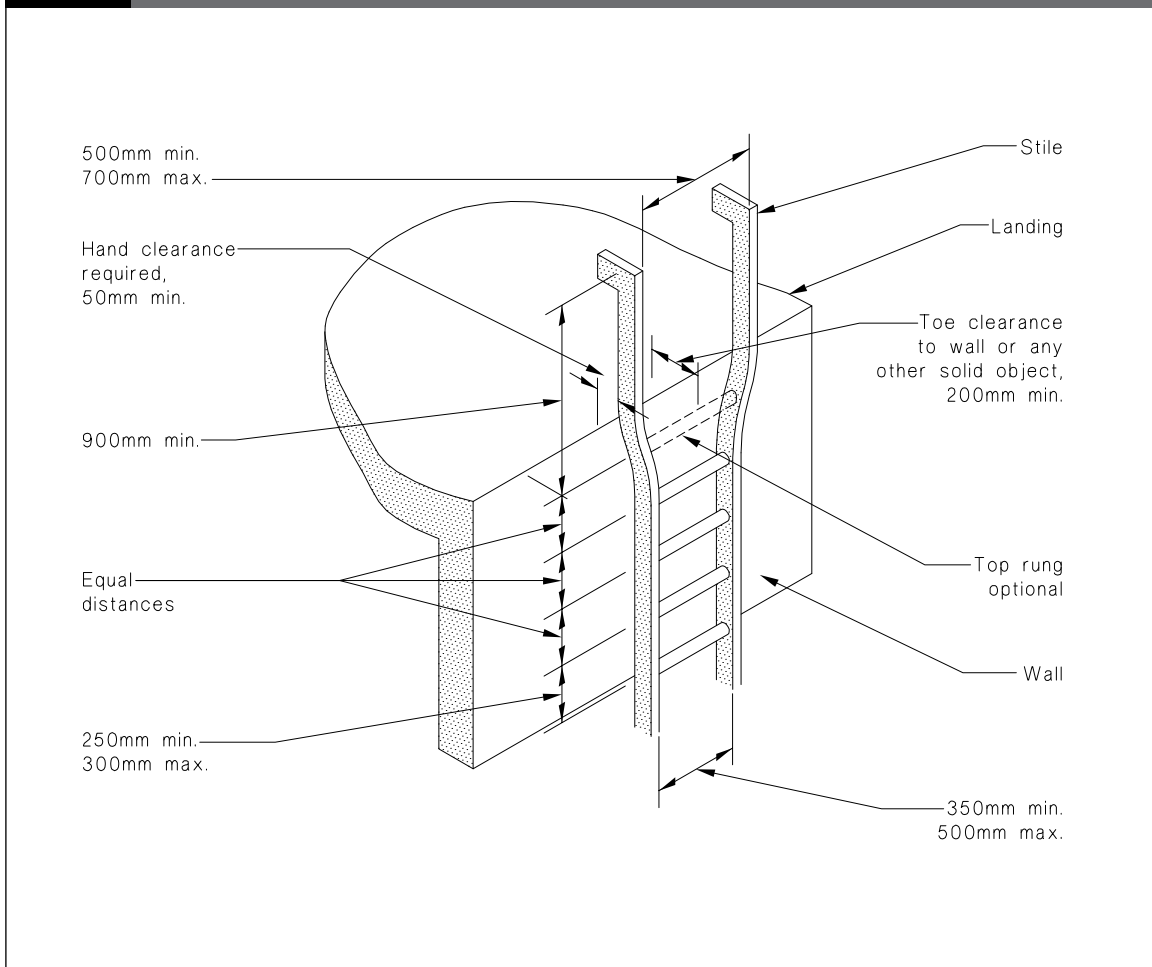
**5.2.1** Step-type ladders (see Figure 19) shall have:

- a) **A slope** of between 60° and 70° from the horizontal,
- b) **Treads** no less than 100 mm wide and spaced evenly at between 200 mm and 250 mm centres,
- c) **A width** between stiles of no less than 450 mm,
- d) **A height** between landings of no more than 6.0 m,
- e) **Clearances** of at least:
  - i) 50 mm for hand movement along the *handrail*,
  - ii) 50 mm between the treads and any solid objects behind the ladder,

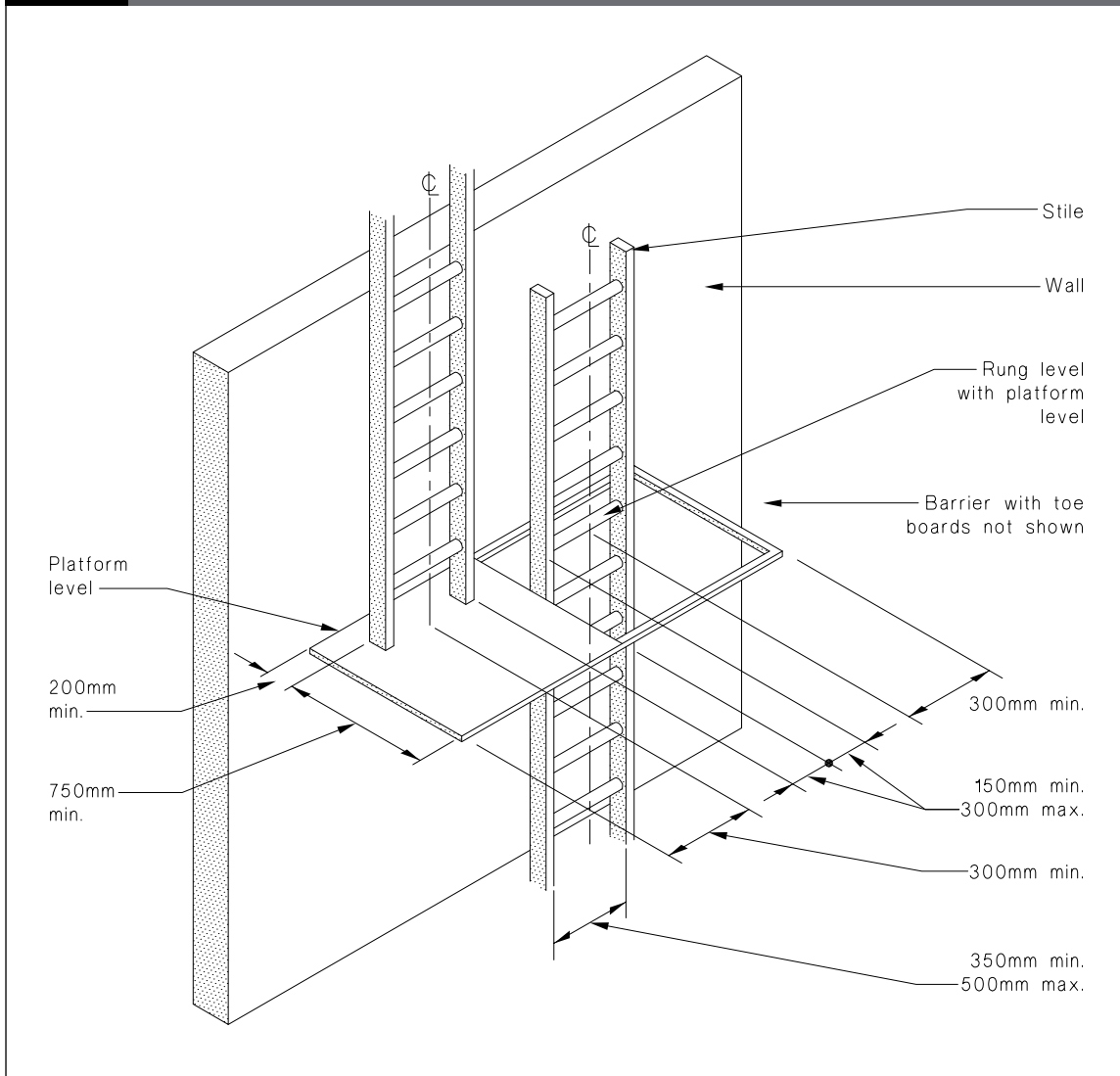
f) **Horizontal openings at landings** of not less than 1150 mm (see Figure 19), and

- g) **Handrails** which:
  - i) are fitted on both sides of the ladder,
  - ii) are spaced between 550 mm and 750 mm apart,
  - iii) are located at a vertical distance above the stile of no more than 450 mm,
  - iv) commence no less than 900 mm above floor level,
  - v) extend above the upper landing by no less than 900 mm to connect with a barrier (if any), and
  - vi) are constructed to comply with Paragraphs 6.0.1 to 6.0.6.

**Figure 22: Step Through Access to Landings from Rung-type Ladders**  
Paragraphs 5.3.1 and 5.3.2



**Figure 23: Side Access to Landings from Rung-type Ladders**  
Paragraphs 5.3.1 and 5.3.2



### 5.3 Rung-type ladders

**5.3.1** Rung-type ladders (see Figures 20, 22 and 23) shall have:

- a) **A pitch line slope** of between 70° and 90° from the horizontal,
- b) **Rungs** of no less than 20 mm diameter and spaced evenly at between 250 mm and 300 mm centres,
- c) **A width** between stiles of no less than 350 mm or more than 500 mm,
- d) **A height** between landings of no more than 9 m, and
- e) **Clearances** of at least:
  - i) 750 mm between the rungs and any obstruction behind the climber,
  - ii) 300 mm from the ladder centre line to each side,
  - iii) 50 mm for hand movement along the stiles where the stiles extend above a landing, and



- iv) 200 mm between the rungs and any solid objects behind the ladder.

### 5.3.2 Access to landings (see Figures 22 and 23).

- a) Ladder stiles shall extend to the height of the barrier, but no less than 900 mm above the landing.
- b) Toeboards shall not extend across ladder openings.
- c) For step-through access, stile spacing above the landing shall be between 500 mm and 700 mm, and the top rung either level with, or one full rise below, the landing.
- d) For side access to landings, the spacing from the nearest stile to the landing shall be between 150 mm and 300 mm, and the top rung must be level with the landing.

## 5.4 Individual rung-type ladders

### 5.4.1 Individual rung-type ladders (see Figure 24) shall have:

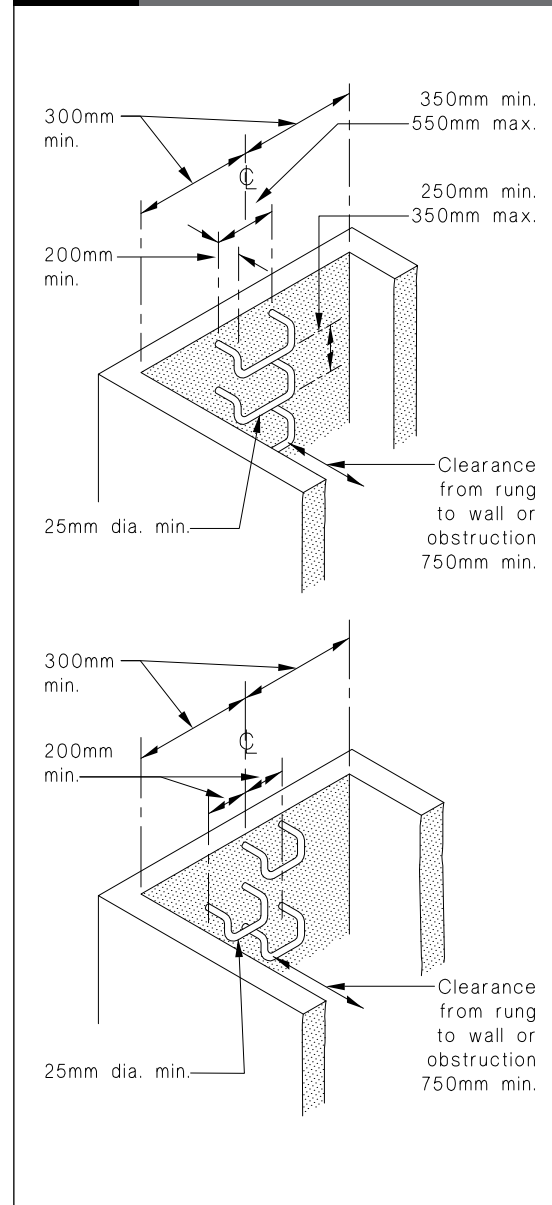
- a) **Rungs** of no less than 25 mm diameter, shaped to prevent the foot slipping off sideways, and spaced evenly at between 250 mm and 350 mm centres,
- b) **A tread width** on each rung of between 300 mm and 550 mm, except that for staggered rungs this may be reduced to 200 mm, and
- c) **Height and clearance** limitations as for rung-type ladders (see Paragraphs 5.3.1 d) and e)).

## 6.0 Handrails

**6.0.1** All *accessible stairways* shall have *handrails* on both sides (see Paragraph 6.0.3). All other *stairways* with a width of 2.0 m or less and having two or more risers, shall have *handrails* on at least one side. *Handrails* may be omitted on *stairways* of two or three risers within or giving access to a *household unit*.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

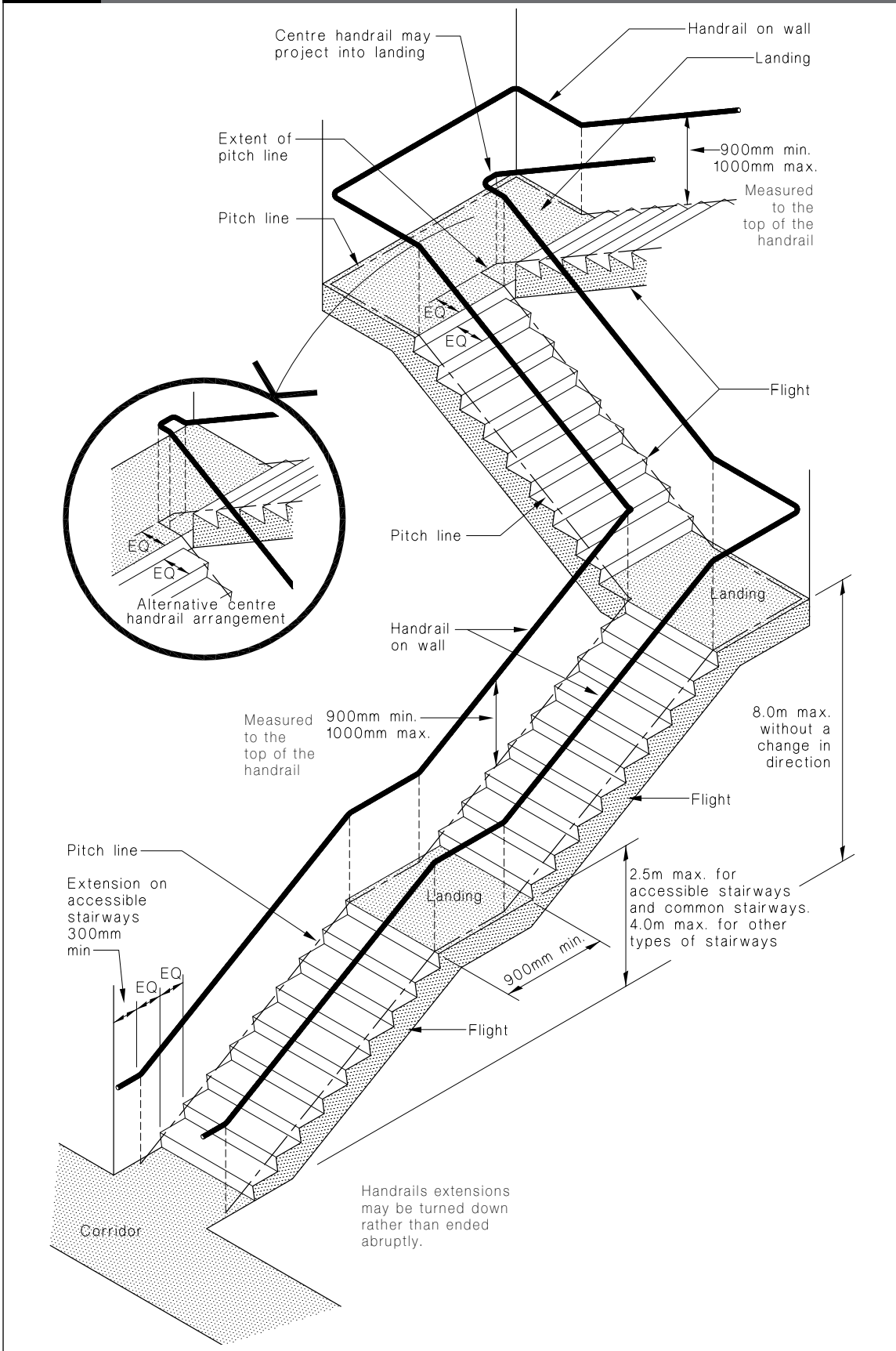
**Figure 24: Individual Rung-type Ladders**  
Paragraphs 5.1.1 c) and 5.4.1



### COMMENT:

1. Wherever possible, *handrails* should be continuous on all *access routes*. On *private stairways* a *handrail* may be considered continuous if the continuity is interrupted by newel posts.
2. A single riser is an isolated step which by NZBC D1.3.3 i) is permitted only within *Detached dwellings* or within *household units* of *Multi-unit dwellings*, and in *Outbuildings* and *Ancillary buildings*.

**Figure 25: Handrails and Landings for Stairways and Ramps**  
 Paragraphs 1.5.2, 4.3.2, 6.0.2, 6.0.3, 6.0.4 and 6.0.5



Amend 6  
Jan 2017

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**6.0.2** Any *stairway* which exceeds 2.0 m in width shall:

- a) Have *handrails* on both sides and, where the width exceeds 4.0 m, shall also have an intermediate *handrail* provided at the centre of the *stairway*, or
- b) If the *stairway* is essentially an outdoor architectural feature and not required to be an *accessible stairway*, have at least one *handrail*. Examples of such *stairways* are those leading to civic areas, or to decks on *Housing*.

**COMMENT:**

A central rail gives all users a rail to use for safety purposes. On *stairways* in public *buildings*, such as sports stadia, intermediate rails are also effective for crowd control. The 2.0 m width is a comfortable width for three people, two of whom can grasp a rail if anyone trips.

**6.0.3 Accessible stairways and accessible ramps** – *Handrails* shall be provided on both sides of *accessible stairways* and on both sides of *accessible ramps* where the ramp slope is steeper than 1 in 20. The *handrails* shall be continuous except where doors are located on landings (see Figures 9 and 25).

**6.0.4 Slope of handrails** – *Handrails* shall have the same slope as the *pitch line*, begin no further than the second riser from the lower end of the *stairway*, and extend the full length of the *stairway* they serve. Except that, where the *handrail* serves an *accessible stairway* or *accessible ramp*, a 300 mm (minimum) horizontal extension shall be provided at each end of the *handrail*, as shown in Figures 9 and 25.

**6.0.5** The first riser shall be located a sufficient distance back from the corner where the two walls meet, to accommodate the extended *handrail*, as shown in Figure 25.

**6.0.6 Height of handrails** – *Handrails* shall be positioned between 900 mm and 1 m above the *pitchline* (see Figure 25) measured to the top of the *handrail*.

**COMMENT:**

Where a *handrail* is located on top of the barrier of a *stairway* flight it may transition to a height of 1100 mm on an intermediate landing..

**6.0.7 Handrail profiles** – *Handrails* shall have a profile which can be readily grasped by an adult hand and shall be installed in a way that avoids the likelihood of personal injury. An acceptable *handrail* shall be shaped and located to ensure that, under normal usage, a person's hand will not contact adjacent walls, supporting brackets or fixings, or any other obstruction.

**COMMENT:**

It is important that in the event of stumbling on a *stairway* or ramp an adult, even with a small hand, can firmly grasp the *handrail* to prevent a fall.

**6.0.8** A graspable *handrail* profile shall have:

- a) A flat or convex upper surface,
- b) Arrised or radiused edges,
- c) A minimum cross section width of 20 mm, and
- d) A "relevant width" (as illustrated in Figure 26 (a)) across the top surface of no greater than 80 mm. Figure 26 (a) and (b) indicates some acceptable profiles but others may also be acceptable.

**6.0.9** Acceptable *handrail* profiles for *accessible stairways* and *accessible ramps* are shown in Figure 26 (b).

**COMMENT:**

In most circumstances a *handrail* is used with a light grip to steady the user of a *stairway* or ramp. Ambulant *people with disabilities* use *handrails* for both leverage and support, and wheelchair users often need to firmly grip the rails to pull themselves along, particularly on ramps. In those circumstances a profile offering an adequate grip is important.

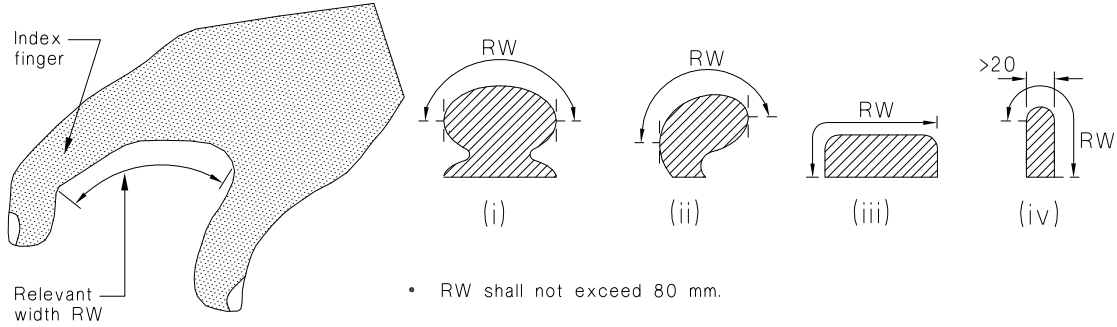
**6.0.10** *Handrails* are not required on the steps between tiers of seating rows such as in cinemas and stadiums where the steps take the form of two risers with a tread between leading onto a landing alongside a row of seats. However, a *handrail* shall be provided alongside the steps that give access to the end of a row of seats. Steps shall have a *common stairway* or *accessible stairway* dimensions (see Figure 11).

Amends  
4 and 5

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

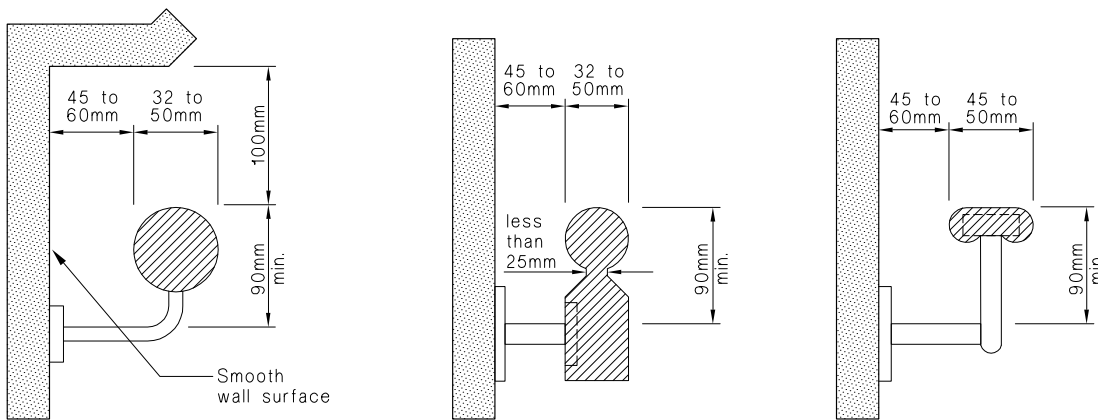
**Figure 26: Handrail Profiles and Clearances**  
Paragraphs 6.0.8 and 6.0.9



Amend 6  
Jan 2017

- RW shall not exceed 80 mm.
- RW (relevant width) is measured around the upper surface perimeter of the handrail section between the vertical tangents on either side.
- Variations in shape are acceptable provided the effective grip is not reduced. For example, the side faces shown as vertical in details (iii) and (iv) are still acceptable even if slightly curved or sloped up to 5° from vertical.
- See fig. 26 (b) for wall clearances.

**(a) Determination of relevant width for private and common stairways**



The profiles shown comply with the provisions for accessible handrails.

The clearances apply to all handrails and the maximum dimension must be used for rough textured wall surfaces.

**(b) Acceptable profiles and clearances for accessible stairways**

## 7.0 Doors and Openings

**7.0.1 Lobby doors** – Where doors open into a lobby, the clear space between open doors shall comply with Figure 27. Where doors, including those providing access to sanitary facilities, are used within an *accessible route* and a *person* must open the door towards the wheelchair, an unobstructed wall space of not less than 300 mm shall be provided at the side of the door adjacent the handle (see Figure 27 (b)).

### COMMENT:

1. *People with disabilities* generally find sliding doors more convenient than hinged doors.
2. Sliding doors may be installed in places where a hinged door would otherwise hinder circulation or manoeuvrability, but may only be installed in accordance with any requirements for *escape routes*.

**7.0.2 Other doors** where located on *accessible routes* shall comply with Figure 9.

**7.0.3 Width** – *Accessible* doors shall have at least 760 mm clear opening.

**7.0.4 Visibility** – Doors which swing in both directions shall incorporate glazing to provide adequate visibility for a *person* using the door. Acceptable glazing is shown in Figure 28. *Accessible* doors shall be of a colour that contrasts with their surroundings.

### COMMENT:

1. Glass doors set in a largely glazed wall and wooden panel doors set in a similarly panelled wall are difficult to locate by those with visual impairment.
2. Door handles should contrast with the door.

**7.0.5 Door handles** – *Accessible* doors shall be openable with one hand and have a lever action operation for handles, locks and latches. The end of handles shall be returned towards the door. Handles shall be between 900 mm and 1200 mm above floor level. Pull handles or push plates are acceptable only where doors are not latched.

### COMMENT:

1. People who use wheelchairs must have one hand free to propel the chair through the open door.
2. Door knobs with a twist or turn action do not provide an adequate grip for people with hand impairments.

## 7.0.6 Revolving doors and turnstiles –

Where revolving doors or turnstiles are used within an *accessible route*, an alternative hinged or sliding door shall be provided (see Figure 29).

**7.0.7 Frameless glass doors** shall comply with NZBC F2.

## 8.0 Places of Assembly

### 8.1 Spaces for wheelchairs

**8.1.1** The number of spaces in rooms and areas used for public meetings, entertainment, and assembly, shall be provided on the scale of 2 for up to 250 seats provided, plus 1 for every additional 250 seats.

**8.1.2 Spaces for wheelchairs** shall be located immediately adjacent to other seating, as shown in Figure 30.

### 8.2 Access to performance areas

**8.2.1** An *accessible route* shall be provided to a podium or stage area.

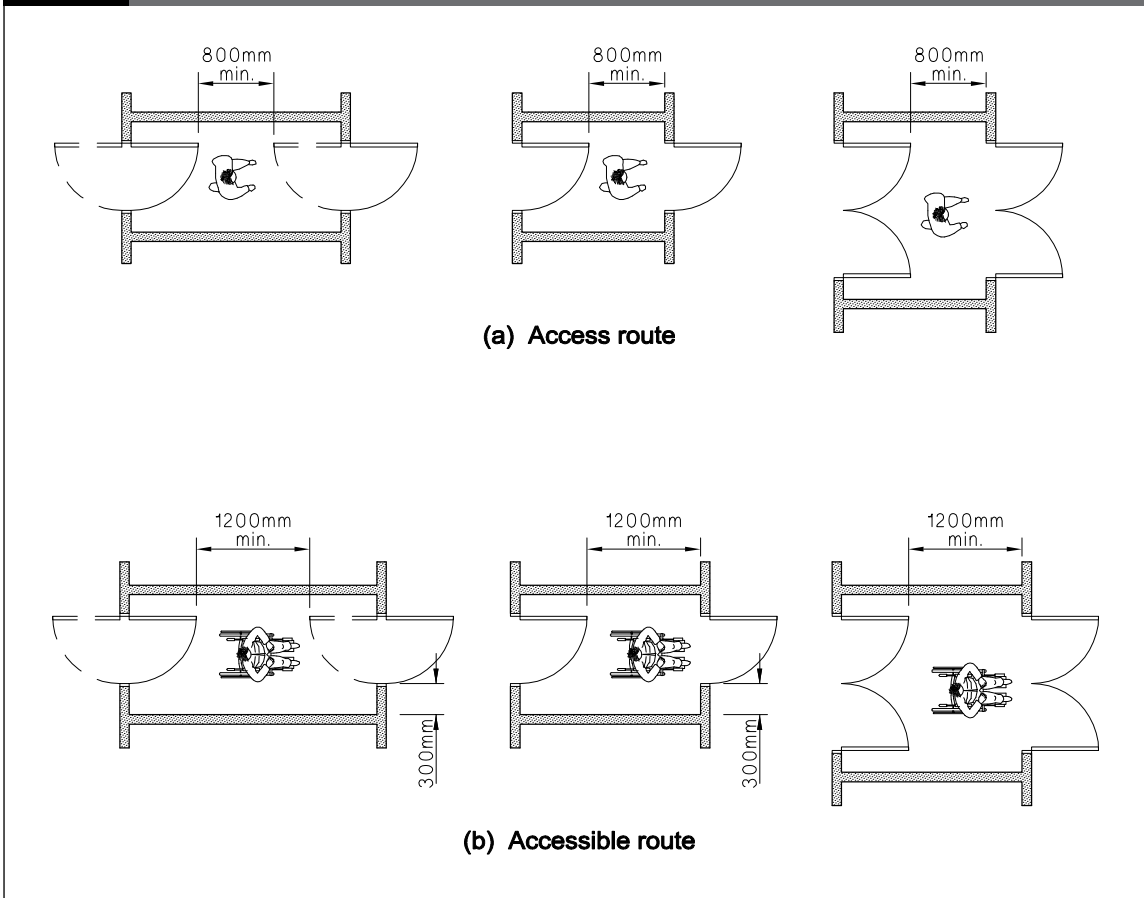
## 9.0 Accessible Accommodation Units of Communal Residential Buildings

### 9.1 Number of units to be provided

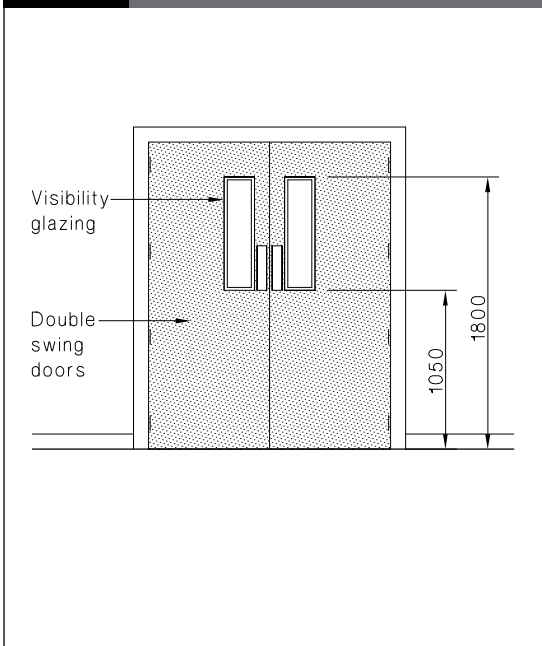
**9.1.1** The number of *accessible* accommodation units to be provided in hotels, motels and other *Communal Residential buildings* providing accommodation for the public shall be no less than that given in Table 9.

Amend 1  
Jan 2017

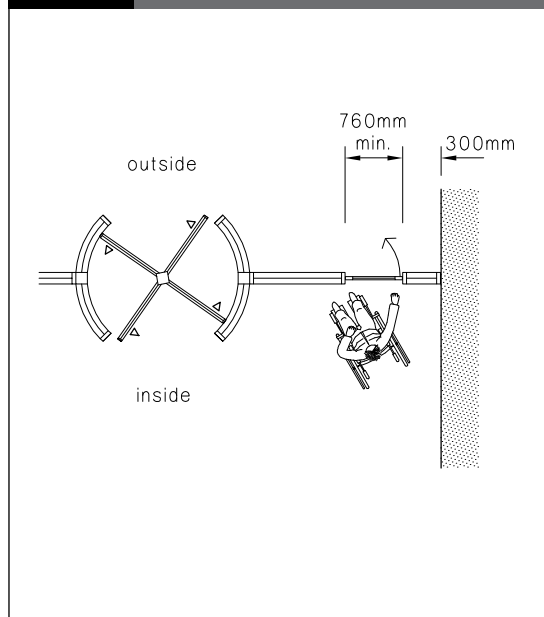
**Figure 27: Doors and Openings**  
Paragraph 7.0.1



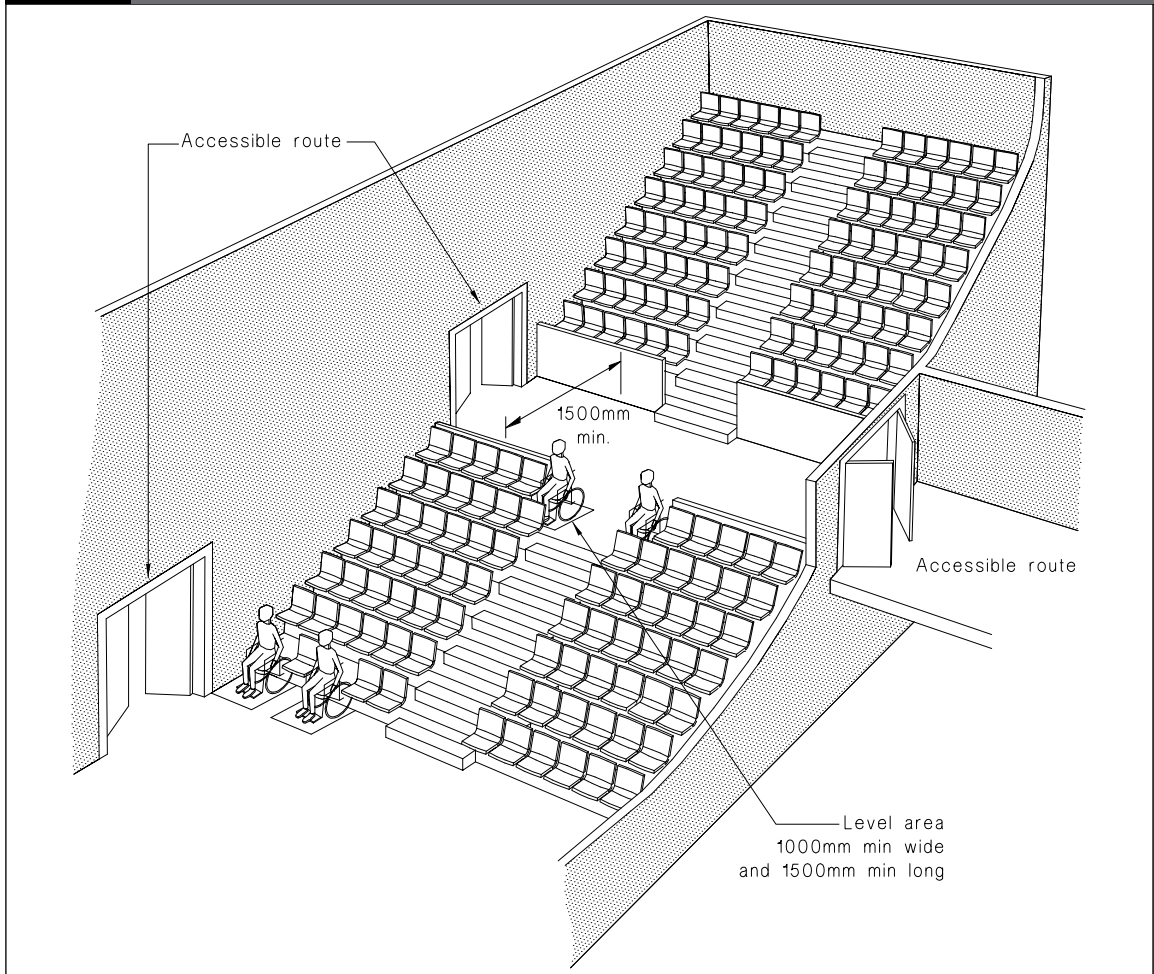
**Figure 28: Acceptable Glazing for Visibility**  
Paragraph 7.0.4



**Figure 29: Revolving Door with Accessible Side Hung Door**  
Paragraph 7.0.6



**Figure 30: Seating Spaces for Wheelchairs**  
Paragraph 8.1.2



**Table 9: Accessible Accommodation Units**  
Paragraph 9.1.1

Total number of guest units	Number of accessible units to be provided
0 – 10	1
11 – 25	2

Plus 1 unit for every additional 25 guest units provided.

Amend 6  
Oct 2016

**9.2 Facilities to be provided**

**9.2.1 Accessible** accommodation units shall have toilet and bathroom facilities complying with G1/AS1 and have bedrooms, sitting and dining areas with sufficient clear floor space to provide a 1500 mm diameter turning circle for a wheelchair user. *Accessible* kitchens or *accessible* tea and coffee making facilities shall be provided, in line with the facilities provided in the other units of the *building* or complex.

**COMMENT:**

Guidance on the provision of accessible units in public accommodation is given at [www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/g-services-and-facilities/g3-food-preparation-and-prevention-of-contamination/](http://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/g-services-and-facilities/g3-food-preparation-and-prevention-of-contamination/)

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

## 10.0 Movement of Vehicles

### 10.1 Car parking areas

**10.1.1** AS/NZS 2890 Part 1 is an Acceptable Solution for car parking areas and circulation routes.

**COMMENT:**

NZS 4121 in section 5 covers the provision of *accessible* car parking and the number of *accessible parks* to be provided.

## 12.0 Lifts

**12.0.1** For the purposes of determining whether a lift must be provided for *people with disabilities* to access upper floors, the design occupancy of a floor shall be calculated using Paragraph 1.4 of C/AS2 through to C/AS6 as appropriate or Paragraph 3.1 of C/M2.

Amend 4  
Jul 2001

Amend 4  
Jul 2001

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**12.0.2** *Building* size may also be used to determine the need for a lift for *people with disabilities*. NZS 4121 is an acceptable solution based on gross floor area.

**COMMENT:**

Gross floor area is a defined term in NZS 4121.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

## 11.0 Other Acceptable Solutions

**11.0.1** AS 1657 is an Acceptable Solution for stairs, ladders, platforms and walkways for service and maintenance personnel.

**COMMENT:**

Barriers (guard railings) are covered by Clause F4 'Safety from Falling'. Note that Paragraph 1.2.2 of F4/AS1 refers to barriers in maintenance access situations. If a proposed barrier height is 1000 mm then it needs to be treated as an alternative solution from Table 1 of F4/AS1 for the particular situation

**11.0.2 AS 2980 Part 2** is an acceptable solution for loading spaces and circulation routes for commercial vehicles.

Amend 5  
Oct 2011

Amend 6  
Jan 2017



# Index D1/VM1 & AS1

All references to Verification Methods and Acceptable Solutions are preceded by **VM** or **AS** respectively.

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

**Access routes** . . . . . **AS1** 1.1.5, 1.2.2, 1.4.1, 1.5.1,  
1.5.3 a), 1.5.4, 1.5.5,  
1.6.1, 1.7.1, 1.8.1, 2.0, 5.1.3,  
10.1.4, Figure 27  
protection from falling . . . . . AS1 2.3  
slip resistance . . . . . AS1 2.1, Table 2  
width . . . . . AS1 2.2  
  
see also service and maintenance personnel . . . . . **AS1** 11.0.4

**Accessible accommodation units** . . . . . **AS1** 9.0, 9.1, 9.1.1,  
9.2.1, Table 9  
facilities . . . . . **AS1** 9.2  
bedrooms . . . . . **AS1** 9.2.1 c)  
dining areas . . . . . **AS1** 9.2.1 c)  
kitchens . . . . . **AS1** 9.2.1 b)  
sitting areas . . . . . **AS1** 9.2.1 c)  
toilets and baths . . . . . **AS1** 9.2.1 a)

**Accessible routes** . . . . . **AS1** 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3,  
1.5.5 b), 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 7.0.1,  
7.0.6, 11.0.1, Figure 27  
access to performance areas . . . . . **AS1** 8.2

**Accessible units** . . . . . **AS1** 1.1.3

Amend 5  
Oct 2011

**Barriers** . . . . . **AS1** 1.7  
see also Handrails

**Buildings** . . . . . **AS1** 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.4  
10.1.4, 10.4.1,  
entrances . . . . . **AS1** 10.1.3

**Communal residential buildings** . . . . . **AS1** 9.0, 9.1.1

**Community service buildings** . . . . . **AS1** 1.1.3

**Doors** . . . . . **AS1** 7.0, Figure 27  
accessible doors . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.3, 7.0.4, 7.0.5  
frameless glass doors . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.7  
glazing . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.4, Figure 28  
handles . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.5  
lobby doors . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.1  
revolving doors . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.6, Figure 29  
turnstiles . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.6  
visibility . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.4  
width . . . . . **AS1** 7.0.3

**Escape routes** . . . . . **AS1** 1.1.5

- Handrails** ..... **AS1** 1.5.2, 1.5.4 b), 1.6.1, 1.7,  
5.2.1 g), 6.0, 6.0.1, 6.0.2,  
Figures 6 and 19  
clearances ..... **AS1** 6.0.7, Figure 26  
handrail profiles ..... **AS1** 6.0.7, 6.0.8, 6.0.9, Figure 26  
height ..... **AS1** 6.0.6, Figure 25  
horizontal extensions ..... **AS1** 6.0.4, 6.0.5, Figure 25  
intermediate handrails ..... **AS1** 6.0.2  
relevant width ..... **AS1** 6.0.9, Figure 26  
slope ..... **AS1** 6.0.4
- Height clearances** ..... **AS1** 1.4, 1.4.1, Figure 3, Table 1
- Hotels** ..... **AS1** 9.1.1
- Kerbs** ..... **AS1** 1.5.4 a), Figure 6  
see also Ramps
- Ladders** ..... **AS1** 5.0, 5.1.1  
height ..... **AS1**, 5.1.2, 5.1.7  
individual rung-type ladders ..... **AS1** 5.1.1 c), 5.4, Figure 24  
clearance ..... **AS1** 5.4.1 c)  
height ..... **AS1** 5.4.1 c)  
rungs ..... **AS1** 5.4.1 a)  
tread width ..... **AS1** 5.4.1 b)  
width ..... **AS1** 5.4.1 b)  
landings ..... **AS1** 5.3.2  
length ..... **AS1** 5.1.5, 5.1.7  
width ..... **AS1** 5.1.4  
location ..... **AS1** 5.1.3  
rung spacing ..... **AS1** 5.1.6  
rung-type ladders ..... **AS1** 5.1.1 b), 5.3, Figure 20  
clearances ..... **AS1** 5.3.1 e)  
height ..... **AS1** 5.3.1 d)  
landings ..... **AS1** 5.3.2, Figure 23  
rungs ..... **AS1** 5.3.1 b)  
slope ..... **AS1** 5.3.1 a)  
width ..... **AS1** 5.3.1 c)  
safety enclosures ..... **AS1** 5.1.2, Figures 21, 22  
step-type ladders ..... **AS1** 5.1.1 a), 5.2, 5.2.1 a), Figure 19  
clearances ..... **AS1** 5.2.1 e)  
height ..... **AS1** 5.2.1 d)  
horizontal openings ..... **AS1** 5.2.1 f)  
slope ..... **AS1** 5.2.1 a)  
treads ..... **AS1** 5.2.1 b)  
width ..... **AS1** 5.2.1 c)  
types of ladders ..... **AS1** 5.1.1

Amend 6  
Jan 2017

Amend 5  
Oct 2011

**Lifts** ..... **AS1** 12.0

**Lighting** ..... **AS1** 1.5.4, 1.8

**Location** ..... **AS1** 1.1

**Motels** ..... **AS1** 9.1.1

**Obstructions** ..... **AS1** 1.5

    dangerous projections ..... **AS1** 1.5.4, Figure 6

    isolated columns ..... **AS1** 1.5.5, Figure 7

    major projections ..... **AS1** 1.5.3, Figure 5

    minor projections ..... **AS1** 1.5.1, 1.5.2, Figure 4

**Occupancy** ..... **AS1** 12.0

**Openings**

    see Doors ..... **AS1** 7.0.1

**Other Acceptable Solutions** ..... **AS2** 11.0

**People with disabilities** ..... **AS1** 1.1.4, Table 9

**Places of assembly** ..... **AS1** 8.0

**Principal entrance** ..... **AS1** 1.1

**Ramps** ..... **AS1** 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 3.0

    accessible ramps ..... **AS1** 3.1.3, 6.0.2, 6.0.3, 6.0.4, Figure 9

        slopes ..... **AS1** Table 3

        width ..... **AS1** 3.2

    intermediate landings ..... **AS1** 3.3.1, Table 5

        length ..... **AS1** 3.3.3

        width ..... **AS1** 3.3.2

    kerb ramps ..... **AS1** 3.4, Figure 10

    landings ..... **AS1** 3.3, Figure 25

    service ramps ..... **AS1** 3.1.2, Figure 8, Table 4

    slip resistance ..... **AS1** 3.1.4, Table 2

    slopes ..... **AS1** 3.1, 3.1.1

**Signs** ..... **AS1** 1.1.1

**Slip resistance** ..... **VM1** 1.0, **AS1** 2.1, 3.1.4, 4.1.4 c), Table 2

**Slopes** ..... **AS1** 1.2

    acceptable slopes ..... **AS1** 1.2.1, Figure 2

    changes in level ..... **AS1** 1.3, 1.3.1

    cross falls ..... **AS1** 1.2.2

- Stairways** ..... **AS1** 4.0
- accessible stairways ..... **AS1** 4.1.7, 4.1.8 b), 4.2.1, 6.0.1, 6.0.2, 6.0.3, 6.0.4, Figure 11, Tables 6, 7, 8
  - common stairways ..... **AS1** 4.1.8, 4.2.1, Figure 11, Tables 6, 7, 8
  - curved stairways ..... **AS1** 4.1.3, 4.4, Figure 17
  - Stairways (continued)
  - landings ..... **AS1** 4.3, 4.3.1, 4.3.6 c), 4.6.2 c), Figures 14, 25
  - direction changes ..... **AS1** Figure 16
  - length ..... **AS1** 4.3.4, 4.3.6 c)
  - maximum rise ..... **AS1** 4.3.2, Table 7
  - obstructions ..... **AS1** 4.3.5, Figure 15
  - width ..... **AS1** 4.3.3
  - lighting ..... **AS1** 4.5, 4.5.2, Table 8
  - pitch ..... **AS1** 4.1, Figure 11, Table 6
  - pitch lines ..... **AS1** 4.1.3, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.5.1, 4.5.2
  - private stairways ..... **AS1** 4.6.2, Figure 11, Tables 6, 8
  - main ..... **AS1** Figure 11, Table 6
  - minor ..... **AS1** 4.5.1, Figure 11, Table 6
  - secondary ..... **AS1** 4.5.1, Figure 11, Table 6
  - risers ..... **AS1** 4.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.8, 4.4.2, 4.5.1, Figures 11, 12, Table 6
  - service stairs ..... **AS1** 4.5.1, Figure 11, Tables 6, 8
  - slip resistance ..... **AS1** 4.1.4 c), Table 2
  - spiral stairs ..... **AS1** 4.1.3, 4.4.1
  - treads ..... **AS1** 4.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.5.1, 4.6, Figures 11, 12, 13, Table 6
  - tapered treads ..... **AS1** 4.4, Figure 17
  - visibility ..... **AS1** 4.3.6, 4.6, Table 8
  - width ..... **AS1** 4.2, 4.2.1, 4.4.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 6.0.1
  - winders ..... **AS1** 4.5, Figure 18
- Structural stability** ..... **AS1** 1.6
- Thresholds** ..... **AS1** 1.3.2
- Turnstiles** ..... see Doors
- Vehicles** ..... **AS1** 10.0
- accessible car parking ..... **AS1** 10.1, 10.2
  - car parking areas ..... **AS1** 10.1
  - commercial vehicles ..... **AS1** 11.0.2
  - loading spaces ..... **AS1** 11.0.2
- Weather stops** ..... **AS1** 1.3.2
- Wheelchairs** ..... **AS1** 7.0.1
- spaces for wheelchairs ..... **AS1** 8.1, 8.1.2, Figure 30