

## Stairs to Dwellings

### Building Regulation Guidance Note

In order to pass between one floor and another safely, it is important that the staircase be designed to give that safe passage.

The following information gives guidance on how this may be achieved.

- **Stairs**

The stairs will comply if, in a flight of steps, all have the same rise and the same going, subject to the following dimensions:

Rise maximum 220mm

Going minimum 220mm

Pitch maximum  $42^{\circ}$

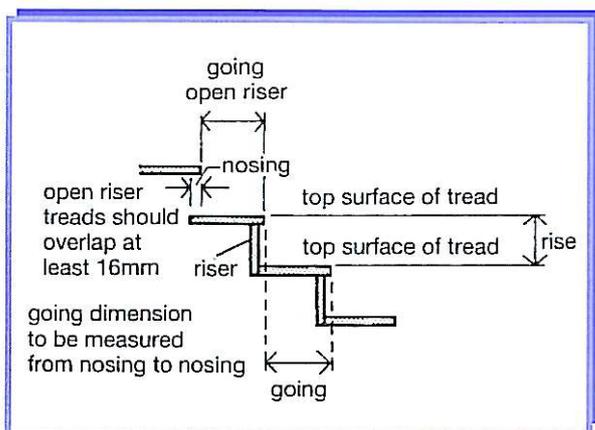
The normal relationship between the dimensions of the rise and going is that twice the rise plus the going ( $2R+G$ ) should be between 550mm and 700mm.

- **Construction of Steps**

Steps should have level treads and may have open risers, but then the treads should overlap each other by 16mm (**see Diagram1**).

### Diagram 1 – Measuring Rise & Going

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All stairs which have open risers and are likely to be used by children under 5 years should be constructed, so that a 100mm ball cannot pass through the open risers.

- **Headroom**

A headroom of 2m is adequate on access between levels (**see Diagram 2**). For loft conversions where there is not enough space to achieve this height, the headroom will be satisfactory if the height measured at the centre of the stair width is 1.9m reducing to 1.8m at the side of the stair, as shown in **Diagram 3**.

Diagram 2 - Measuring Headroom

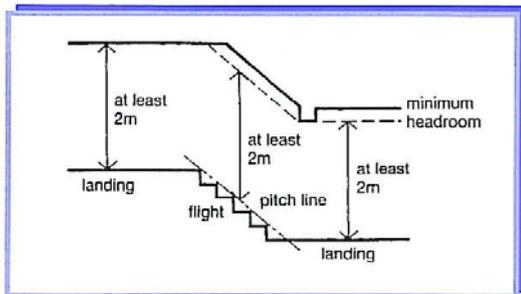
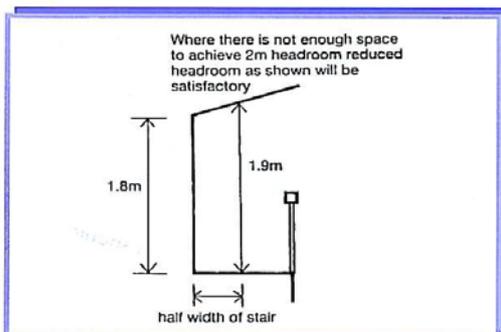


Diagram 3 - Reduced Headroom



- **Width of Stairs**

The suggested minimum width of stairs is 800mm unless the stairs are providing access only from one room to another (these not being a kitchen or living room), then 600mm is adequate.

- **Landing**

Landings to be provided at the top and bottom of every flight. The width and length of every landing should be at least as great as the smallest width of the flight. The landing may include part of the floor of the building.

To afford safe passage, landings should be clear of permanent obstruction. A door may swing across a landing at the bottom of a flight, but only if it will leave a clear space of at least 400mm across the full width of the flight (**see Diagram 4**). Doors to cupboards may open in a similar manner over a landing at the top of a flight (**see Diagram 5**).

Diagram 4 - Landings Next to Doors

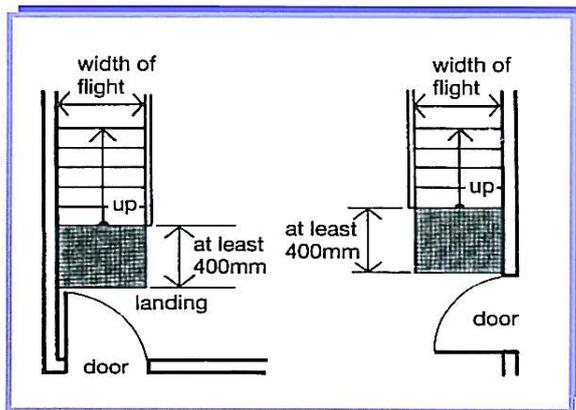
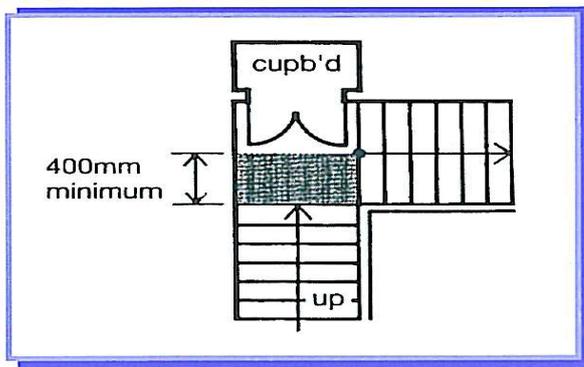


Diagram 5 - Cupboards onto Landing



- **Tapered Treads**

For steps with tapered treads, the going should be measured in the middle of the treads, with the tapered treads at least 50mm at the narrow end.

Where consecutive tapered treads are used the going of each should be the same.

Where a stair consists of straight and tapered treads the going of the tapered treads should not be less than the going of the straight tread.

- **Handrails for Stairs**

The handrail height should be between 900mm and 1000mm measured to the top of the handrail from the pitch line or floor and be at least on one side of the staircase if less than one metre wide and on two sides, if wider.

- **Guarding of Stairs**

Flights and landings should be guarded at the sides to a height of 900mm.

The construction should be that children will not readily be able to climb the guarding and a 100mm ball cannot pass through any openings in the guarding.

- **Please Note**

In view of the technical nature of the Regulations and for the need to protect Health and Safety, professional advice should be sought when dealing with these issues.

### **Translation Information**

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