

QUICK GUIDE

Staircase regulations

The key Approved Document K figures for stairs, headroom, handrails and guarding on one page.

Rise and going

Stair category	Rise (mm)	Going (mm)	Other limits
Private (within one dwelling)	150 - 220	220 - 300	Pitch no steeper than 42 degrees
Utility (escape, maintenance)	150 - 190	250 - 400	
General access (shared or public)	150 - 170	250 - 400	

All rises in a flight equal, and all goings equal. Comfort check: twice the rise plus the going (2R + G) between 550 and 700 mm.

Headroom

At least 2000 mm clear over the stair, measured vertically from the pitch line. Loft conversions can relax this to 1900 mm at the centre of the stair and 1800 mm at the side.

Handrails

Stairs less than 1 m wide: a handrail on at least one side. Stairs 1 m or wider: both sides. Typically 900 - 1000 mm above the pitch line and on landings, easy to grip, for the full flight.

Guarding

Location (dwelling)	Minimum guarding height
Stairs and landings	900 mm
Balconies, galleries and edges of floors	1100 mm
External balconies and roofs	1100 mm

Gaps in guarding must not let a 100 mm sphere pass through where children may be present. Open risers: treads overlap by at least 16 mm and the 100 mm rule applies.

Landings

A level landing at the top and bottom of every flight, at least as wide and as long as the stair is wide, clear of door swings.

General guidance for England based on Approved Document K. Your designer and building control confirm the requirements for each project. Check a stair with the free staircase calculator at prosteelsolution.com/tools/staircase-calculator/