

## **UK Building Regulations & British Standards**

Balustrading in the UK is covered by several Building Regulations and Standards. These are summarised below with key points highlighted. Should you require further advice regarding Regulations and Standards please contact our Technical Department.

### **Document K: Building Regulations 1992**

This document gives provisions for stairways in the design and building of stairways which form part of the structure and guidance on the aspects of geometry and guarding (balustrading) of stairs. Summary of the key points;

- Twice the rise plus the going (2R+G) should be between 550 and 700mm
- Handrails should be provided to at least one side if the flight is less than 1 metre wide
- For flights above 1 metre handrails should be provided to both sides
- There is no need for handrail beside the bottom 2 steps of a flight
- For domestic situations the handrail should be set at a minimum height of 900mm on both stairs and landings
- For semi public flights the handrail should be set at a minimum height of 900mm on stairs and 1100mm on landings
- There should be no opening in the balustrade that would allow the passage of a 100mm sphere
- The "guarding" should be able to resist a horizontal loading of 0.36kN per metre run for domestic stairs and 0.74kN per metre for semi public stairs
- Maximum pitch for domestic stairs is 42° or 38° for semi public

### **BS585 Part 1 1989: Woodstairs**

This document covers specifications for stairs with closed risers for domestic use, including straight and winder flights and quarter or half landings. Appendix A of this standard also details the recommendations for the site fixing of stairs.

### **BS5395 Part 1 1977: Stairs, Ladders and Walkways**

This document covers the design of straight stairs.

### **Stair Type Definitions**

**Private Stairs;** intended to be used for only one dwelling with a maximum rise of 220mm and a minimum going of 220mm. A maximum pitch of 42 degrees is stipulated for domestic stairs. Balustrading must be able to withstand a horizontal loading of 0.36kN per metre. All Richard Burbidge stair balustrading has been independently tested to these minimum loadings.

**Institutional or Assembly Stairs;** serving a place where a substantial number of people will gather, with a maximum rise of 150mm and a minimum going of 280mm. Balustrading must be able to withstand a horizontal loading of 0.36kN per metre. Richard Burbidge do not currently offer balustrading systems to suit these requirement. No timber system is likely to comply. Note: Institutional and Assembly stairs both reference Approved Document M, Access and Facilities for disabled people for the maximum permissible rise of stairs providing access for disabled people.

**Other Stairs (Semi Public);** covers all other types of buildings, with a maximum rise of 190mm and a minimum going of 250mm. Balustrading must be able to withstand a horizontal loading of 0.74kN per metre. Richard Burbidge Fusion Commercial, Classic Red Oak and White Oak have been tested to these requirements.



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