

Hot Design Tips

NZBC Clause D1 Access Routes - Stairway Types

Under NZBC Clause D1, there are a variety of stair types with differing requirements for stairway pitch, riser & tread lengths. Table 6 (as below) has the design limits for each type of stair.

Table 6 Design Limits for Stairs			
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

A summary of each type of stair listed in Table 6 is noted below:

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.

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.

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 stairway:

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.

More details on stairway requirements can be found [here](#)