

Hot Design Tips

Safety from falling with barrier construction under NZBC Clause F4

Under NZBC Clause F4 (Safety from Falling), barriers must have a minimum height as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Minimum Barrier Heights Paragrap 1.1.1, Figures 1-5		
Building Type	Location	Barrier height (mm) (Note 1)
Detached dwellings and within household units of multi-unit dwellings	Stairs and ramps and their intermediate landings	900
	Balconies and desk and edges of internal floors or mezzanine floors	1000
All other buildings, and common areas of multi-unit dwellings	Stairs or ramps	900
	Barriers within 530mm of the front of fixed seating	800
	All other locations	1100

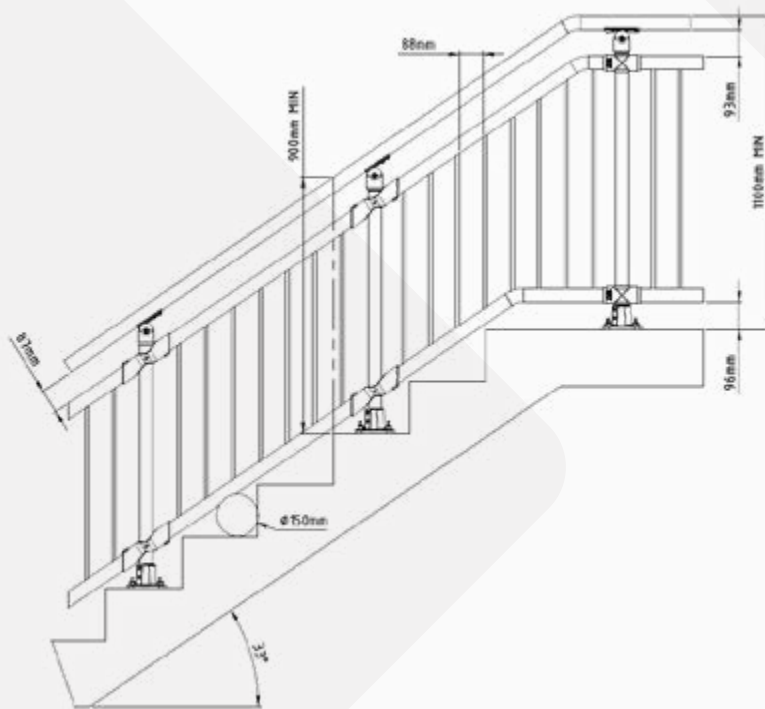
Note:

1. Heights are measured vertically from finished flor level (Ignoring carpet or vinyl, or similar thickness coverings)
2. A landing is a platform with the sole function of providing access.
3. Clause F4.3.1 has a limit on its application that may exclude the need for barriers in certain locations such as working wharves and loading docks.
4. An 800mm high barrier in front of fixed seating would be appropriate in cinemas, theatres, and stadiums.

In housing and other areas likely to be frequented by children under 6 years of age, any opening's in these barriers must not allow a 100mm sphere to pass through them over the full height of the barrier.

Where a triangular opening is formed by the riser, tread & bottom rail of the barrier, a 150mm sphere must not be allowed to pass through this area.

The below view shows the Moddex Conectabal CB30 on stair flight, designed to suit the above requirements



More details on the NZBC Clause F4 can be found [here](#).