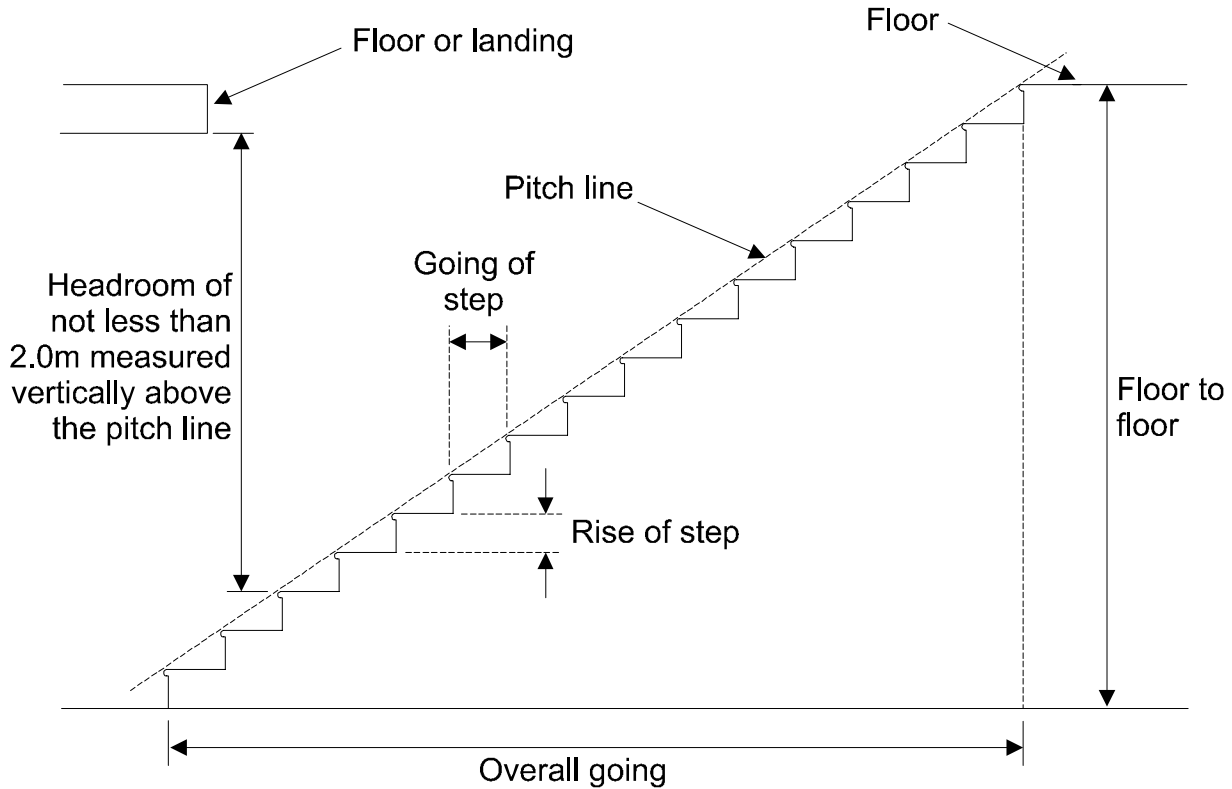


Definitions



Approved Document Part K of the Building Regulations 1992 gives provisions for stairways in the building of stairways which form part of the structure. BS 585:1989 Wood Stairs covers the quality and construction of interior stairs, in wood with closed strings, for use in houses.

Common stairway is an internal or external stairway of steps with straight nosing on plan, forming part of the building and intended for common use with two or more dwellings.

Private stairway is a stairway within a building or for the sole use of one dwelling.

Going The going of a step is measured on plan between the nosing of its tread and the nosing of the step above or landing above or, as the British Standard says, face of riser to face of riser. The going should not be less than 225mm (220mm in England and Wales) for a private stairway and not less than 250mm for a common stairway.

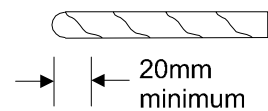
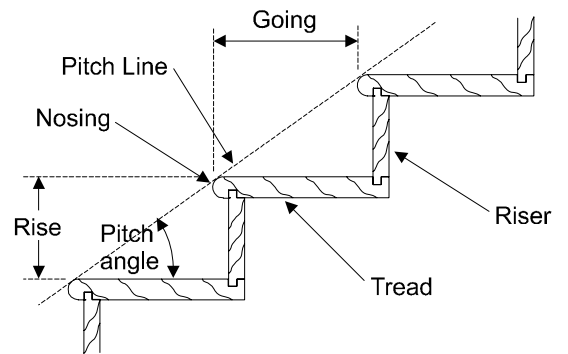
Pitch The angle between the pitch line and the horizontal should not exceed 42 degrees for a private stairway and 38 degrees for a common stairway.

Rise Measured from the top of the tread to the top of the tread. Every step of landing must be of equal rise between consecutive floors. The rise of a step must not be more than 220mm for a private stairway and not more than 190mm for a common stairway.

Approved Document K Part 1.13 says the number of risers in a flight should be limited to 16 if a stairway serves an area used for shop or assembly purposes. Part 1.14 says that stairways of more than 36 risers in consecutive flights should make at least one change of direction of at least 30 degrees between flights.

Height of handrails Approved Document K states that flights should have a handrail on at least one side if they are less than 1m wide and on both sides if they are wider than 1m. There is no need for handrails beside the bottom two steps of a stairway. Handrails should be between 900mm and 1000mm high and give firm support. The minimum heights are 900mm on domestic flights, rake and landing.

It is a Building Regulation requirement that no openings in any balustrades should allow the passage of a sphere of 100mm in diameter. That is about the size of a child's head.



Going on open stairs