Guidance

Performance

In the Secretary of State's view the requirement K1 will be met by the use of stairs, ladders and ramps in appropriate circumstances to afford reasonable safety between levels in the following buildings:

a. dwellings where the difference in level is more than 600mm.

b. other buildings where the change of level is two or more risers, (or 380mm if not part of a stair).

An acceptable level of safety can be achieved by different standards of provision, depending on the circumstances; for example, in a public building the standard of provision may be higher than in a dwelling, to reflect the lesser familiarity and greater number of users.

Where access is required only for the purpose of maintenance, greater care can be expected from those gaining access, and it would be reasonable that less demanding provisions could satisfy the requirement.

Introduction

0.1 This document describes some ways of meeting the requirement.

Section 1 gives guidance on aspects of geometry of stairs, special stairs and guarding of stairs.

Section 2 gives guidance on ramps and guarding of ramps.

0.2 The requirement does not apply to means of access outside a building unless the access is part of the building; for example, the requirement does not apply to steps on land leading to a building, but does apply to entrance steps which are part of the building.

0.3 Where access routes:

a. form part of a means of escape in case of fire, reference should be made to Approved Document B: Fire safety.

b. are intended as a means of access for disabled people, reference should be made to Approved Documents M: Access and facilities for disabled people.

0.4 In places where a stair or ramp forms part of the means of access within assembly buildings, such as sports stadia, arenas, theatres, cinemas, etc, it should conform to the guidance in Part K: Protection from falling, collision and impact. However, where steps are part of the gangways serving areas for spectators or there needs to

be special consideration given to guarding in spectator areas then reference should be made to relevant guidance such as:

a. for new assembly buildings, BS 5588 *Fire precautions in the design, construction and use of buildings* Part 6: 1991: *Code of Practice for places of assembly.*

b. for work to existing assembly buildings, *Guide to Fire Precautions in Existing Places of Entertainment and Like Premises,* Home Office 1990.

c. for stands at sports grounds, *Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds,* The Stationery Office 1997.

Definitions

0.5 The following meanings apply to terms throughout this Approved Document.

Alternating tread stair A stair with paddle shaped treads with the wide portion alternating from one side to the other on consecutive treads. (see paragraphs 1.22 - 1.24)

Containment A barrier that prevents people falling from one floor to the storey below (see Diagrams 11 and 12)

Flight The part of a stair or ramp between landings that has a continuous series of steps or a continuous slope. (For the widths and lengths of flights see paragraphs 1.11 - 1.14)

Going The horizontal dimensions from front to back of a tread less any overlap with the next tread above. (For measurement of the going on tapered treads see paragraphs 1.18 - 1.20)

Helical stair A stair that describes a helix round a central void (see paragraph 1.21)

Ladder A means of access to another level formed by a series of rungs or narrow treads on which a person normally ascends or descends facing the ladder (see paragraphs 1.25 and 1.26).

Ramp A slope steeper than 1 in 20 designed to conduct a pedestrian or wheelchair user from one level to another (see Section 2)

Rise The height between consecutive treads. (see paragraphs 1.1 - 1.6)

Spiral stair A stair that describes a helix round a central column. (see paragraph 1.21)

Stair A succession of steps and landings that makes it possible to pass on foot to other levels.

Tapered tread A step in which the nosing is not parallel to the nosing of the step or landing above it. (see paragraphs 1.18 - 1.20)