

Handrails are extremely helpful for those who have difficulty negotiating level changes. They should be incorporated in any level changes, including ramps, steps and stairs.

- Handrails should be at 900 – 1100mm for ramps (Figures 13 & 14) and steps (Figure 15). The handrails should be continuous across flights and landings. In addition, handrails could be installed at 600mm (e.g. in schools).
- Handrail profiles and dimensions can be seen in Figure 19. They should be easy to grip and provide good forearm support for those unable to grip. They should also be configured with a positive end to reduce the risk of catching clothing and other such items at the ends of the handrails.
- Hardwood or nylon coated steel surfaces are recommended, in preference to surfaces that are cold to touch.
- Handrails should be easily distinguishable from their backgrounds and they should not be highly reflective. They should not protrude more than 100mm into the ramp or steps, thus impacting on their required width.

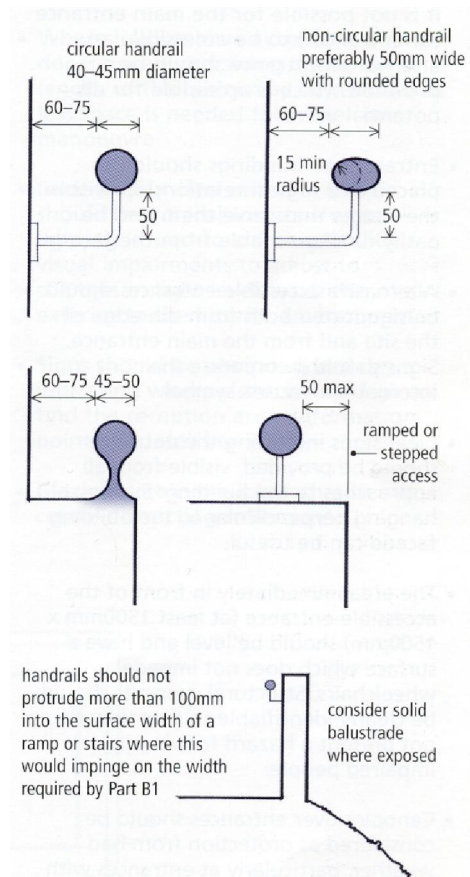


Figure 19
Handrail profiles

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 Summer 2008



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