

**BULLETIN RB06-012**

(Updated 2015 Dec 10)

**STAIR HANDRAILS**

**Reference: Sentence 3.4.6.4.(4), Sentence 3.4.6.4.(5), Sentence 3.4.6.4.(7) and Subsection 9.8.7.**

**Sentence 3.4.6.4.(4)** "Handrails on stairs and ramps shall be not less than 865 mm and not more than 965 mm high, measured vertically from a line drawn through the outside edges of the stair nosing or from the surface of the ramp, except that handrails not meeting these requirements are permitted provided they are installed in addition to the required handrail."

**Sentence 3.4.6.4.(5)** " Except where interrupted by doorways or newels at changes in direction, at least one handrail shall be continuous throughout the length of a stairway or ramp, including landings. (See Appendix A)"

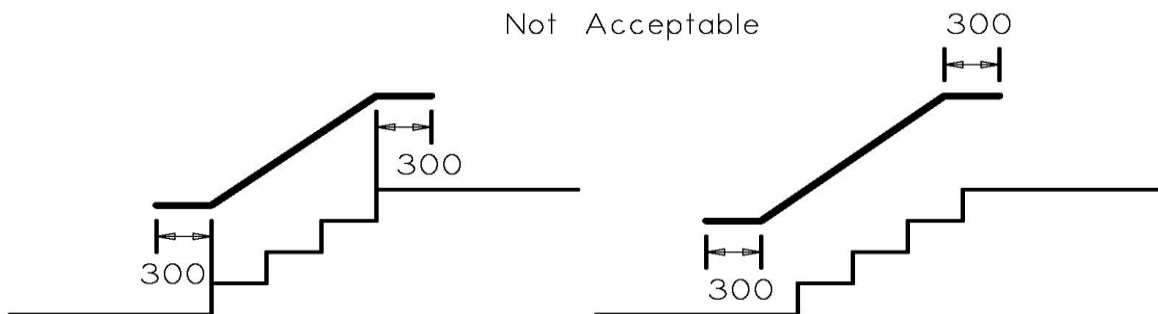
**Sentence 3.4.6.4.(7)** "At least one handrail at the side of a stairway or ramp shall extend horizontally not less than 300 mm beyond the top and bottom of the stairway or ramp.(See A-3.4.6.4.(5) in Appendix A.)

**Subsection 9.8.7** "Handrails" (has similar requirements for Part 9 buildings)

**Question:**

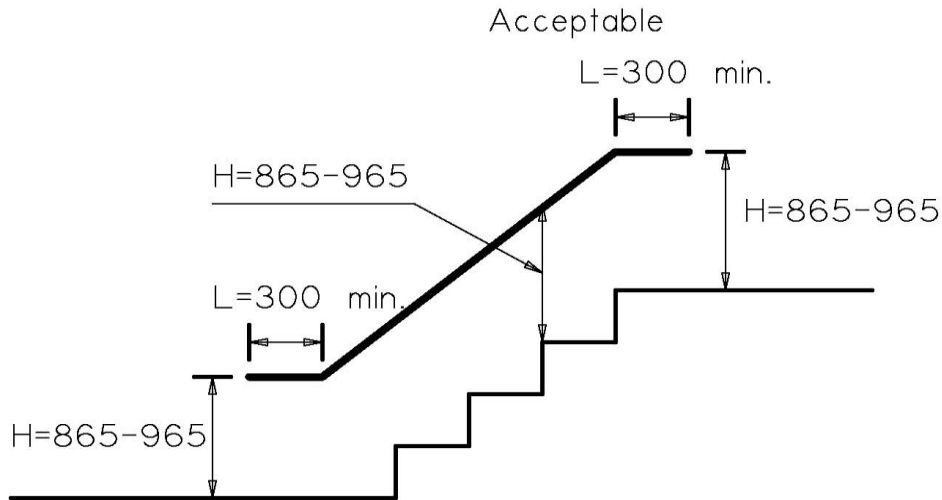
It has been queried whether the horizontal portion of the handrail should be at least 300 mm long, or the horizontal distance as measured from the edge of the last step to the end of the handrail should be 300 mm.

The sketches on page 2 illustrate these two cases.



**Commentary / Relevant Facts / Conclusion:**

The intention of the above Article is to provide a consistent horizontal portion on every handrail as a signal for the visually impaired that they are reaching the end of the handrail and the steps. This extension will also help other physically weak persons. The handrail shown below extends 300 mm beyond the top and bottom of the stair with the desired 865 – 965 mounting height.



NOTE: There may be situations where, due to exiting or traffic patterns, it is more advisable to either turn the 300 mm extension downwards or return it at 180 degrees (u-shaped in plan). Such cases will be judged on the individual circumstances.

Chief Building Inspector

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