

RB14-004

STAIR HANDRAILS

Reference: Sentence 3.4.6.5.(5), Sentence 3.4.6.5.(8), Sentence 3.4.6.5.(10) and Subsection 9.8.7.

Sentence 3.4.6.5.(5) "Except as provided in Sentences (6) and (7), the height of handrails on stairs and ramps shall be

- a) not less than 865 mm, and
- b) not more than 965 mm."

Sentence 3.4.6.5.(6) " Handrails installed in addition to required handrails need not comply with Sentence (5)."

Sentence 3.4.6.5.(7) "Where guards are required, handrails on landings shall be not more than 1 070 mm in height."

Sentence 3.4.6.5.(8) " 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 3.4.6.5.(10). "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-3.4.6.5.(8)** in Appendix A.)

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

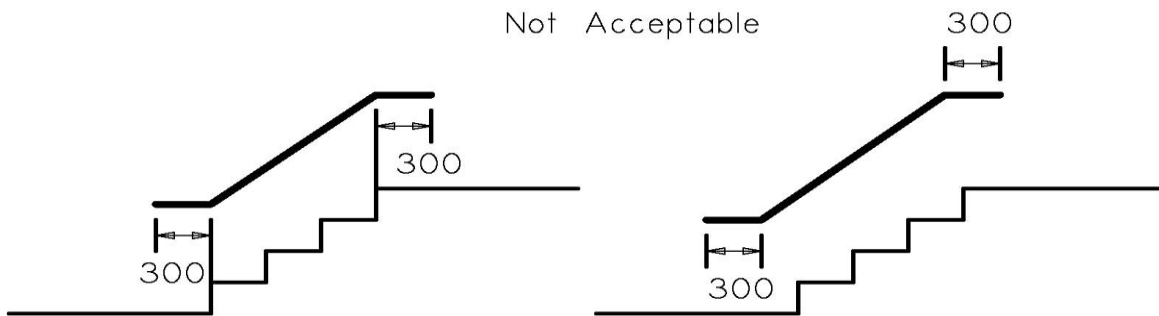
Question:

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.

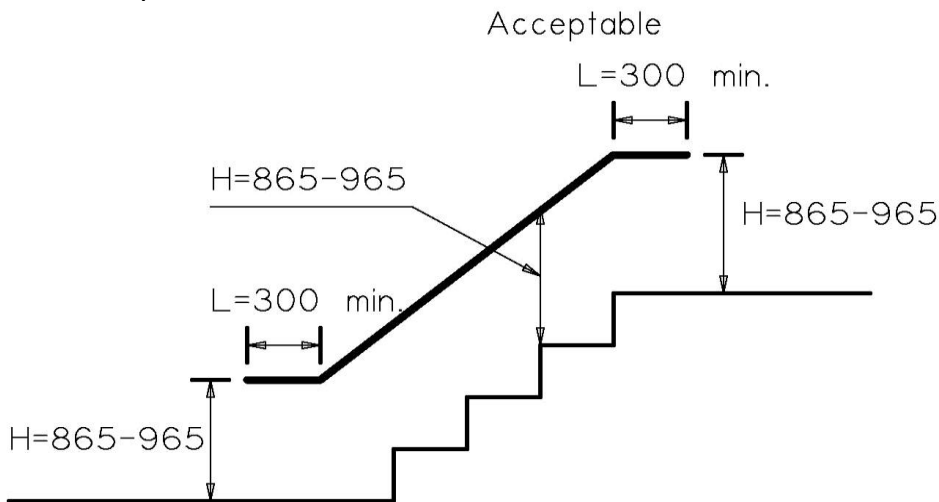
Regulation Bulletin General Policy Statement

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this Regulations Bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Regulation Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Regulation Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. Regulation Bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code



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