

Nosings to stairs in common areas

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Question

Can partial occupation of a building take place where raised stair nosings, designed to take floor coverings, have been fitted without the flooring coverings?

Considerations

- Consistency Matters 6.6/03 describes the requirements for stair nosings to meet Part M of the Building Regulations regarding visual contrast.
- Nosings that are designed to receive flooring can cause a trip hazard before the floor finish is fitted.

Answer

Before any occupation of a building is to take place nosings should be applied to the communal stairs to provide visual contrast, in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations, without forming a trip hazard.

Nosings with a raised edge, designed to accommodate floor finishes such as carpet or vinyl flooring, can create a trip hazard until the flooring is inserted and are therefore not acceptable without the flooring.

Where partial occupation of a building is to take place, before the application of the finished floor coverings, visual contrast of the nosings on each steps should be provided with temporary low profile non-slip nosings, tapes or paint.