

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

HANDRAIL TO STAIRCASES - TAPERED TREADS/WINDERS

6.6/01 – March 2013 (Third issue - supersedes Nov 2004)

QUESTION

Where stairs have tapered treads/winders, is a handrail required to the outside of the stairs?

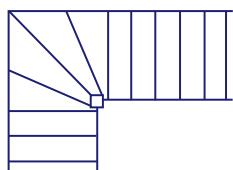
CONSIDERATIONS

- A safe handhold is required for the full rise of any stairs with a total rise greater than 600mm.
- A suitable newel post can provide a safe handhold.

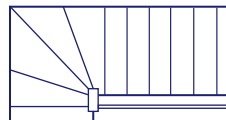
ANSWER

Single newel

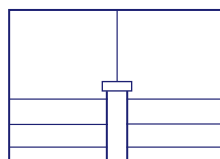
In England, Wales and Scotland where the stairs have between one and four tapered treads/winders and the newel provides a safe handhold, a handrail is not required to the outside of the stairs.



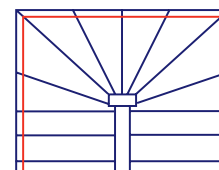
Additional Handrail
not needed *



Additional Handrail
not needed *



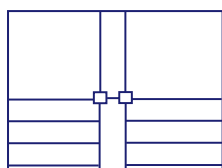
Additional Handrail
not needed



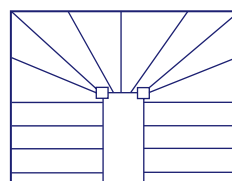
Additional Handrail
needed

Double newels

In England, Wales and Scotland where the newels provide a safe handhold, a handrail is not required to the outside of the stairs.



Additional
Handrail
not needed



Additional
Handrail
not needed *

* In Northern Ireland a handrail should be fitted to the outside of all tapered stairs (required by building regulations).

Where a handrail is needed to the outside of the stairs, it should be continuous for the whole rise to avoid the need to change hands. Handrails need not join at corners to be considered continuous provided they extend into the corner and provide an easy transfer of a handhold from one handrail to the other.

Amended