6.00 Staircases & Ramps

All the requirements of this Section are Mandatory.

6.01 Generally

Internal and external stairs and ramps shall comply in all respects with the requirements of the BCA and AS 1428 Part 1: New Buildings.

Ramps shall be provided externally as required to provide access to buildings for people with disabilities. The use of ramps internally as a means of interconnecting floors is not an acceptable alternative to providing a lift.

GU will not accept designs which combine maximum height risers with minimum width treads. Treads widths and riser heights shall generally comply with the requirements of AS 1428.2, with goings a minimum of 280mm wide.

6.02 Internal Stairs

There shall be a general circulation stair to access to all levels of the building to minimise the use of lifts. This circulation stair may be a fire isolated stair provided all access doors are controlled with magnetic hold open devices connected to the fire alarm system. The following points are to be considered in the design and placement of circulation stairs:

- Placement of stairs to maximise their visibility and use;
- Finishes to stair treads, risers and landings shall be ceramic tiles and walls shall be rendered and painted with matching tile skirting;
- Comply with the requirements of AS 1428.2;
- Design of stairs to be social spaces where conversations can occur;
- Design of stairs to act, where appropriate as natural ventilation shafts;
- Stairs shall be provided with natural light if possible.

Fire isolated stairs shall be provided to satisfy the requirements of the BCA and AS 1428.2. These stairs may be fully enclosed within the building envelope, or may be open framed stairs external to the building façade.

6.03 External Stairs and Ramps

Refer to GU Standard Detail Drawing No. GSD-101, for details of external stairs.

Ramps for disabled access to buildings shall comply with the requirements of AS 1428.1.

The structural design of stair flights and ramps shall be to suit the actual ground conditions encountered.

6.04 Handrails

Internal general access stairs, including fire isolated stairs for general access, shall have stainless steel handrails to both sides.

Where the general access stairs are in an open well with exposed strings to flights, then a balustrade incorporating glass, perforated metal or other approved solid panels is desirable.

Handrails and balustrades to fire isolated stairs which are not general access stairs, may be galvanised steel.
6.05 Finishes

General use access stairs shall have a tiled finish to treads, risers and landings.

Tiles to stairs shall be non-slip to suit the application with tread, riser and nosing tile of a contrasting colour and matching grout. Tiled stair landings and walls adjoining stairs shall have a matching skirting tile ½ tile height or minimum 100mm high.

Refer to Section 13.00 Floor Finishes, for details of the physical requirements of the tiles.

Fire isolated stairs, which are not general access stairs, shall have an integral non-slip finish to treads and landings, with a ‘Yellow’ painted nosing on both tread and landing edges.

Where carpet finishes are approved for internal non fire isolated stairs, tread nosings shall be aluminium with adhesive fixed contrasting coloured inserts.

All stair nosings shall be non-skid of dimensions to comply with AS 1428.2.

Consideration should be given to the use of ‘self illuminating’ nosings such as ‘Ecoglo’, where step edge contrast is required, or would be enhanced, in low light conditions.

6.06 Tactile Indicators

Type B tactile indicators as described in AS 1428.4 are to be provided at the top, bottom and any mid entry point of all stairs and ramps with a grade greater than 1:20. Tactile indicators shall be positioned as shown AS 1428.4. Where separate tactile dots are used, the dots shall be 4 to 5 mm above the surrounding surface. Where dots are mounted on tiles, the tiles should be set flush with the surrounding surface.