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British Standard

Wood stairs

Part 1. Specification for straight flight stairs and stairs with quarter or half landings for domestic use

Escaliers en bois
Partie 1. Escaliers droits et escaliers à paliers pour usage domestique — Spécifications

Holztreppen
Teil 1. Gerade Treppen und Treppen mit Viertel- oder Halbpodest in Wohnhäusern

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Foreword

This Part of this British Standard, which has been prepared under the direction of the Timber Standards Committee, is a revision of BS 585 : 1972 in two Parts. Part 1 is a prescriptive specification for the construction of timber stairs which may include plywood risers and/or edge-to-edge jointed timber and/or glue-laminated wood components. Part 2, which is in course of preparation, will be a performance specification covering stairs made from a wide range of wood based materials. Part 1 supersedes BS 585 : 1972, which is withdrawn.

The proper functioning and durability of a stair complying with this standard depend on care in handling during transportation to, and on site, as well as careful site storage, correct installation (see appendix A), temporary protection, finishes and maintenance. Some general advice is given in BS 5395 : Part 1.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

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Specification

1 Scope

This Part of BS 585 specifies materials and construction requirements for stairs constructed of timber, which may include plywood risers and/or edge-to-edge jointed timber and/or glue-laminated wood components. It applies to straight flight stairs and stairs with quarter and half landings, intended primarily for use inside one-family dwellings, but does not apply to stairs with open risers, stairs having flights with winder treads, stairs having an overall width greater than 1220 mm, or stairs having a total going in one flight exceeding 3800 mm.

Appendix A gives recommendations for fixing stairs on site.

For guidance on design of stairs, see BS 5395 : Part 1.

NOTE. The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 585, the definitions given in BS 5395 : Part 1, BS 5578 : Part 1 and BS 6100 : Part 4 apply, together with the following.

2.1 glue-laminated wood. Wood consisting of laminations glued together, no constituent lamination being more than 50 mm or less than 8 mm thick, with the exception of facing laminations.

2.2 edge-to-edge jointed. Jointing of timber of the same thickness to increase the width of the component.

3 Sizes and tolerances

Sizes of stairs shall be in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5395 : Part 1, provided that the overall width of a flight including strings is not greater than 1220 mm and the total going of any one flight does not exceed 3800 mm.

The maximum permissible deviations from the work size width shall be +0 mm, −3 mm.

NOTE. All sizes specified in this standard are minimum finished sizes.

4 Materials and workmanship

4.1 Materials

4.1.1 *Timber.* Timber for stairs for painting shall comply with the requirements for class 3 of BS 1186 : Part 1, except that a handrail more than 2 m long shall comply with the requirements for class 2 of BS 1186 : Part 1.

NOTE. When stairs are required with non-opaque finishes, reference should be made to the manufacturer.

4.1.2 *Plywood for risers.* Plywood shall be used only for risers. It shall have an exposed surface suitable for painting and shall be bonded using an adhesive complying with the requirements for type BR or type MR of BS 1203.

4.1.3 *Glue-laminated components.* Glue-laminated components shall comply with the relevant requirements of BS 1186 : Part 2.

NOTE. To achieve a good finish it may be necessary to stain or varnish glue-laminated components.

4.1.4 *Adhesives.* Adhesives used for assembly of stairs shall be:

(a) synthetic resin gap-filling adhesives (phenolic and aminoplastic) complying with the requirements for type BR or type MR of BS 1204 : Part 1; or

(b) one part polyvinyl acetate emulsion adhesives complying with BS 4071; or

(c) two part polyvinyl acetate emulsion adhesives in accordance with the recommendations of DD 74.

4.2 Workmanship

The quality of workmanship shall comply with BS 1186 : Part 2.

5 Treads and risers

5.1 The finished thickness of a tread or a riser shall be not less than the appropriate value given in table 1. Timber members of more than one piece shall be jointed as specified in BS 1186 : Part 2. No piece of timber shall be less than 50 mm wide on the finished face of a member except that, in a jointed tread, the front piece on which the nosing is formed shall be not less than 90 mm wide.

Table 1. Minimum finished thickness of members

Width of stair (overall including strings)	Tread thickness	Riser thickness	String thickness
mm	mm	mm	mm
Up to and including 990	20	14 (9 for plywood)	26
Exceeding 990 but not exceeding 1220	26	14 (9 for plywood)	26

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