

## Stair Layout Code Essentials

### 1003.3.3 Stairways

1003.3.3.1 *General.* Every stairway having two or more risers serving any building or proportion thereof shall comply with the requirements of section 1003.3.3. For the purpose of Section 1003.3, the term "stairway" shall include stairs, landings, handrails and guardrails as applicable.

1003.3.3.2 *Width.* The width of stairways shall be not less than 44 inches, except as specified herein chapter 11. Stairways serving an occupant load less than 50 shall not be less than 36 inches in width.

1003.3.3.3 *Rise and Run.* The rise of steps and stairs shall not be less than 4 inches nor more than 7 inches. The greatest riser height within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch. Stair treads shall be of uniform size and shape, except the largest tread run within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch.  
*Exceptions:* Private stairs and stairways serving an occupant load of less than 10 and stairways to unoccupied roofs may be constructed with a  $7\frac{3}{4}$  -inch maximum rise and a 9-inch minimum run.

1003.3.3.4 *Headroom.* Every stairway shall have a headroom clearance of not less than 6 feet 8 inches. Such clearance shall be measured vertically from a plan parallel and tangent to the stairway tread nosings to the soffit or other construction above at all points.

1003.3.3.5 *Landings.* There shall be a floor or a landing at the top and bottom of each stairway or stair run. Such dimensions shall not exceed 44 inches where the stair is a straight run.  
*Exceptions:* In group R, Division 3, and Group U Occupancies and within individual units in Group R, Division 1 Occupancies, such length need not exceed 36 inches where the stair has a straight run.