

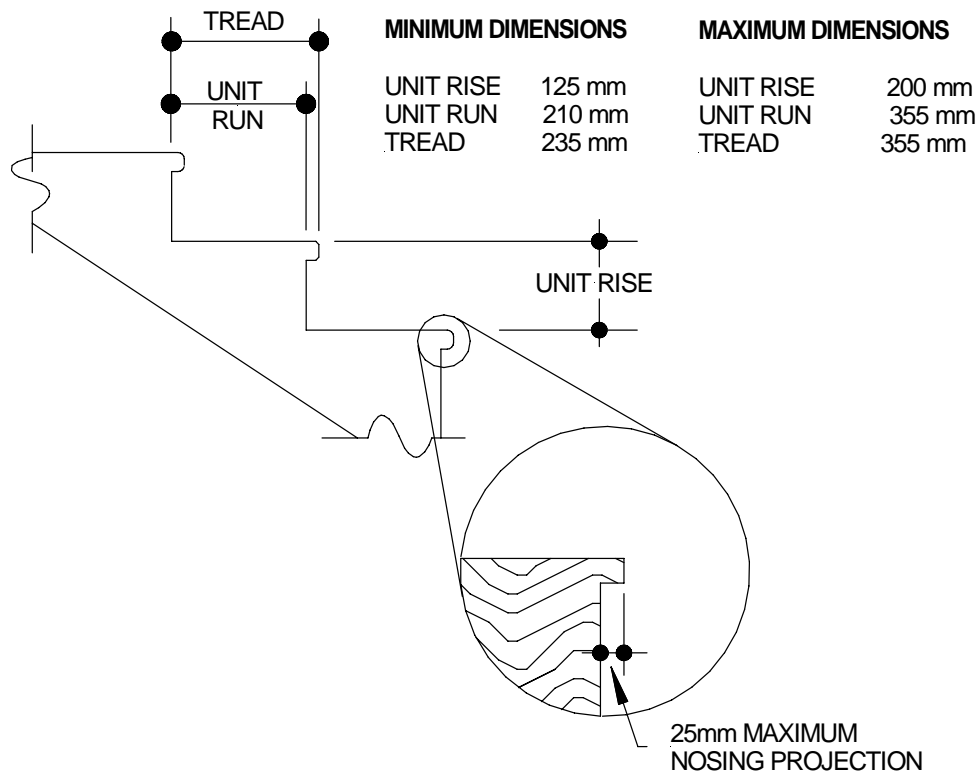
I am building an uncovered deck at my residence, what are the code requirements for the exterior stairs, handrails and guards?

Stairs

The **unit rise** of the stairs shall not be less than 125 mm nor greater than 200 mm with a maximum tolerance of 6 mm between adjacent treads or landing and 6 mm between the tallest and shortest riser in a flight. Unit rise is measured from top of a tread to top of tread or landing.

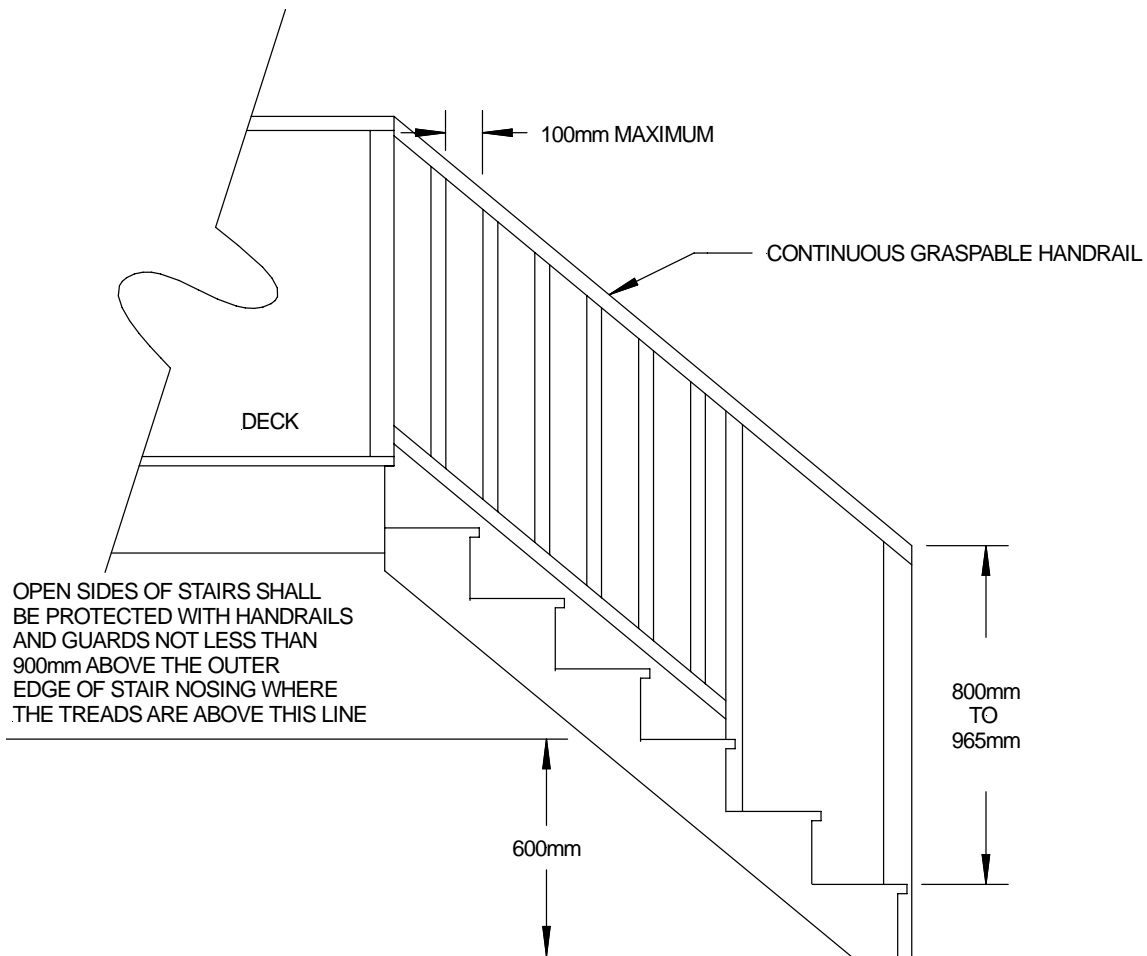
The **unit run** shall not be less than 210 mm nor greater than 355 mm with a maximum tolerance of 6 mm between adjacent treads and 6 mm between the deepest and shallowest runs in a flight. Unit run is measured from face of riser to face of riser.

Treads shall not be less than 235 mm nor greater than 355 mm with a maximum tolerance of 6 mm between adjacent treads and 6 mm between the deepest and shallowest treads in a flight. Treads are measured from the face of the riser to outer edge of the stair nosing. Stair nosing shall not be greater than 25 mm beyond the face of the adjacent riser below.



Handrails and Guards for Stairs

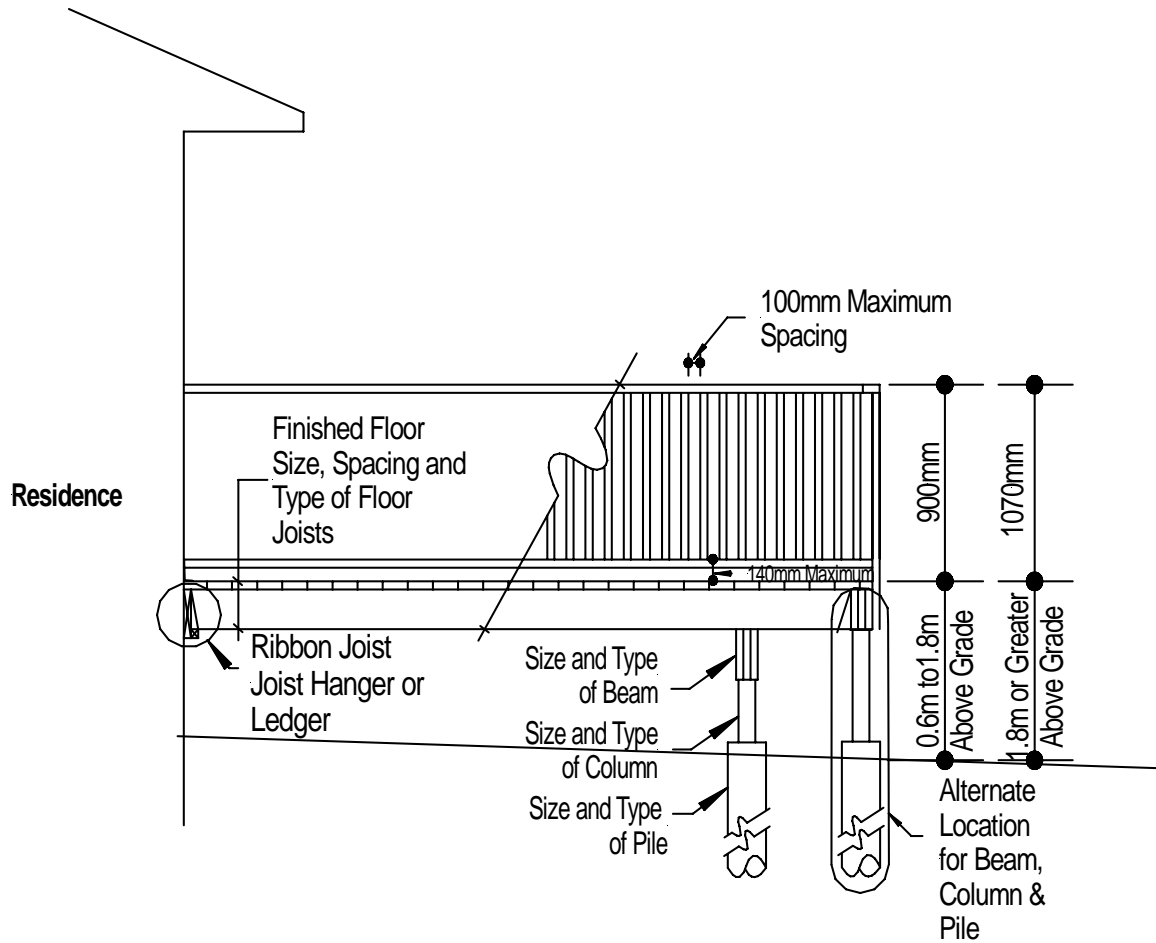
At least one continuous handrail shall be provided to exterior stairs with more than three risers. The handrail shall be installed not less than 800 mm nor greater than 965 mm vertically above the outer edge of the stair nosings. Handrails used to protect an open side of stairs where the difference of elevation between the tread and the adjacent grade level is greater than 600 mm shall not be less than 900 mm above the outer edge of the stair nosing. Guards protecting the open side of the stairs shall have non-climbable inside surface with guards space not more than 100 mm.



Handrails and Guards for Open Sides of Landings and Decks

Open sides of landings and decks where the finished floor surface is greater than or equal to 600 mm and less than or equal to 1800 mm shall be protected with handrails and guards not less than 900 mm above the finished floor surface. Guards protecting the open side of the landings and decks shall have non-climbable inside surfaces with openings not greater than 100 mm. Horizontal members are not permitted between 140 mm and 900 mm above the finished floor surface.

Open sides of landings and decks where the finished floor surface is greater than 1800 mm shall be protected with handrails and guards not less than 1070 mm above the finished floor surface. Guards protecting the open side of the landings and decks shall not be less than 900 mm above the finished floor surface and shall have non-climbable inside surfaces with openings not greater than 100 mm. Horizontal members are not permitted between 140 mm and 900 mm above the finished floor surface.



Always contact the local authority having jurisdiction prior to any construction activity and ensure your project complies with Alberta Safety Codes and local bylaws. Local authority and permit information may be accessed at: [Permit Information](#)

If you require further information please contact Safety Services at:

Telephone: 1-866-421-6929
Email: safety.services@gov.ab.ca

www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca