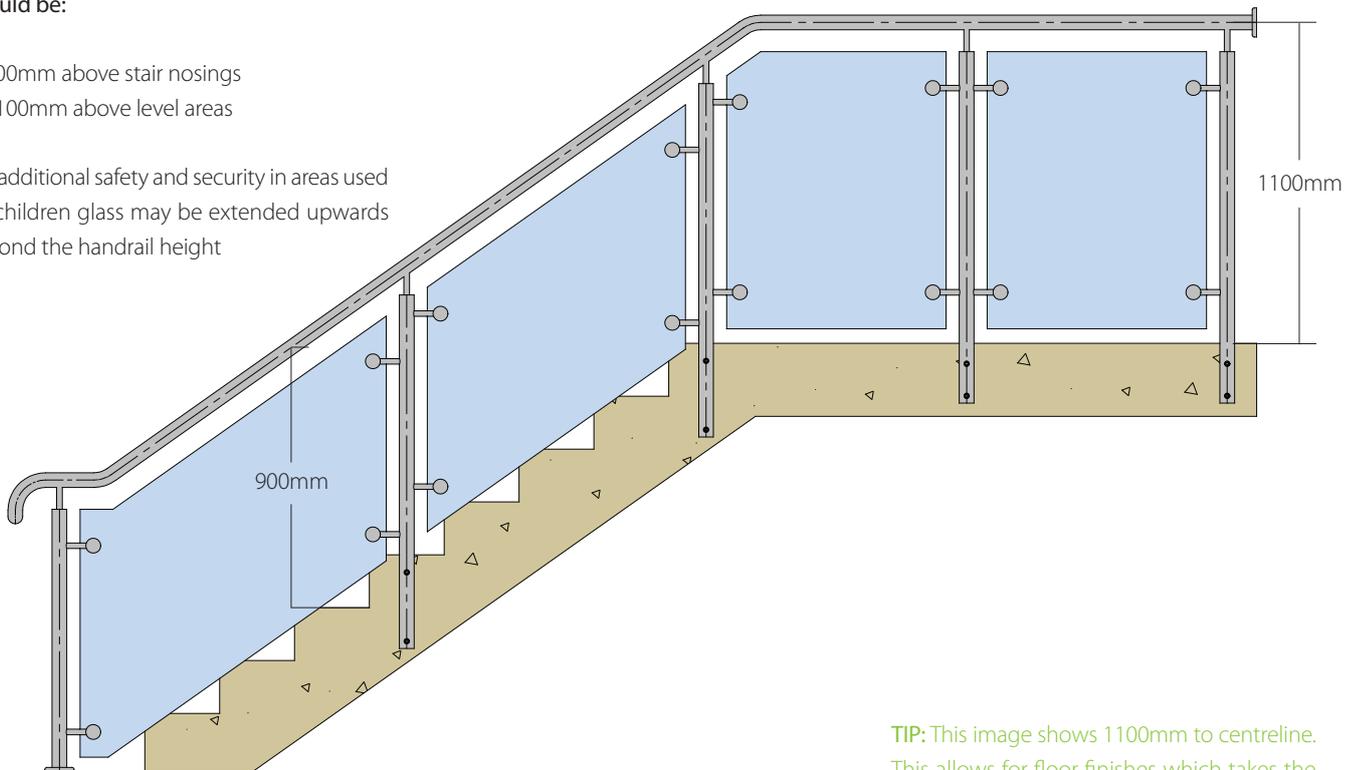


# Height of Balustrades

To fulfil BS8300:2001, handrail heights should be:

- > 900mm above stair nosings
- > 1100mm above level areas

For additional safety and security in areas used by children glass may be extended upwards beyond the handrail height



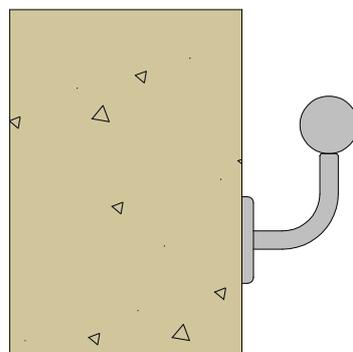
**TIP:** This image shows 1100mm to centreline. This allows for floor finishes which takes the balustrade height to 1100mm from FFL to top of the balustrade

# Handrail profiles

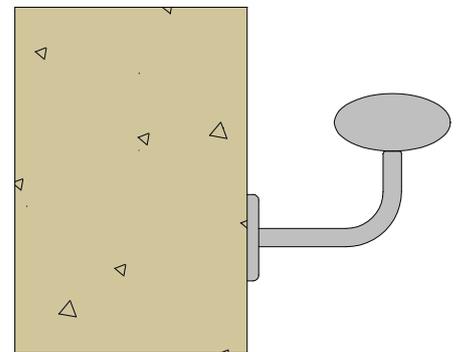
The most common choice of handrail profile is definitely tubular. This is cost effective and meets DDA requirements which some other profiles do not.

There are also other less common handrail profiles such as oval, flat and square but these tend to increase costs and lead times due to manufacturing complications and material availability.

Stainless steel balusters are generally 50mm diameter using a thick wall tube to achieve the required balustrade loading, but they can be larger diameter for retail areas or where wide spans are required. Alternatives such as square or flat sections are less common and tend to look less uniform.



Tubular profile (Recommended by Sapphire)



Oval/Elliptical profile

# Handrails

---

Handrails are required by law to assist in the access and use of buildings and, in most situations, handrails should:

- > Be positioned on both sides of flights and landings (with some exceptions)
- > Continue around intermediate landings (if feasible)
- > Extend at least 300mm past top and bottom nosings/ends of ramps
- > Be between 900mm and 1000mm above the landing, ramp or flight pitch line
- > Contrast in colour and luminescence with the surroundings (especially internally)
- > Be "Not cold to touch" (applies to most but not all external installations)
- > Terminate in a way that reduces the risk of clothing being caught
- > Be between 40-50mm diameter or 50 x 38 oval
- > Have between 50-60mm (60-75mm Part M) clearance to any walls or obstructions
- > Have at least 50mm clearance to any cranked support or balustrade
- > Be used to sub-divide stair flights wider than 1800mm
- > Cater for all users, which may mean a second handrail at 600mm high for children

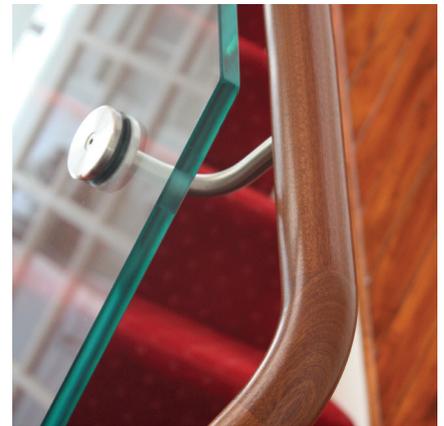
The following pages give further support and information on the practical application of these regulations



Onyx handrail



Stainless steel handrail to Opal balustrade



Natura timber handrail enhancing Crystal balustrade