

## Approved Document K - Protection from falling, collision and impact

Protection from falling, collision and impact are covered within this document. This includes designing staircases, ladders, ramps, guarding and vehicle barriers in and around all types of buildings. There is also a requirement for protection from collision with opening windows by guarding and warning surfaces.

Valid from 1 January 1998



The requirements in this edition of Approved Document K are as follows:

### ***Requirement***

#### **Stairs, ladders and ramps**

**K1.** Stairs, ladders and ramps shall be so designed, constructed and installed as to be safe for people moving between different levels in or about the building.

#### ***Limits on application***

Requirement K1 applies only to stairs, ladders and ramps which form part of the building.

### ***Requirement***

#### **Protection from falling**

**K2.** (a) Any stairs, ramps, floors and balconies and any roof to which people have access, and  
(b) any light well, basement area or similar sunken area connected to a building, shall be provided with barriers where it is necessary to protect people in or about the building from falling.

#### ***Limits on application***

Requirement K2(a) applies only to stairs and ramps which form part of the building.

### ***Requirement***

#### **Vehicle barriers and loading bays**

**K3.** (1) Vehicle ramps and any levels in a building to which vehicles have access, shall be provided with barriers where it is necessary to protect people in or about the building.  
(2) Vehicle loading bays shall be constructed in such a way, or be provided with such features, as may be necessary to protect people in them from collision with vehicles.

#### ***Limits on application***

None

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***Requirement***

**Protection from collision with open windows etc**

**K4.** Provision shall be made to prevent people moving in or about the building from colliding with open windows, skylights or ventilators

***Limits on application***

Requirement K4 does not apply to dwellings.

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***Requirement***

**Protection against impact from and trapping by doors**

**K5.** (1) Provision shall be made to prevent any door or gate:

- (a) which slides or opens upwards, from falling onto any person: and
- (b) which is powered, from trapping any person.

(2) Provision shall be made for powered doors and gates to be opened in the event of a power failure.

(3) Provision shall be made to ensure a clear view of the space on either side of a swing door or gate.

***Limits on application***

Requirement K5 does not apply to:

- (a) dwellings, or
- (b) any door or gate which is part of a lift.