Universal Design Recommendations for Accessible Ramps

- Slope of the ramp should be 1:20 (5%).

- Provide a wide colour-contrasted and slip-resistant strip equal to the width of the ramp.

- Provide level landing on top and bottom.

- Surface should be firm, stable, and slip-resistance.

- On ramps and landings that are not at grade or adjacent to a wall, edge protection should be provided on all edges (either a curb with a minimum height of 100 mm, a raised barrier or rail with its lower edge not more than 100 mm from the ramp or landing surface).

- Illuminate ramp and landing surfaces to 150 lux.

- Handrails should be colour-contrasted with surroundings.

- At least one set of handrails should have a clear width between 920 mm and 1000 mm between the rails.

- Provide horizontal extensions of the handrails beyond the top and bottom of the ramp at least 300 mm long; and returned to the post, floor, or wall.

- Locate handrails on both sides of the ramp and continuously around intermediate landings.

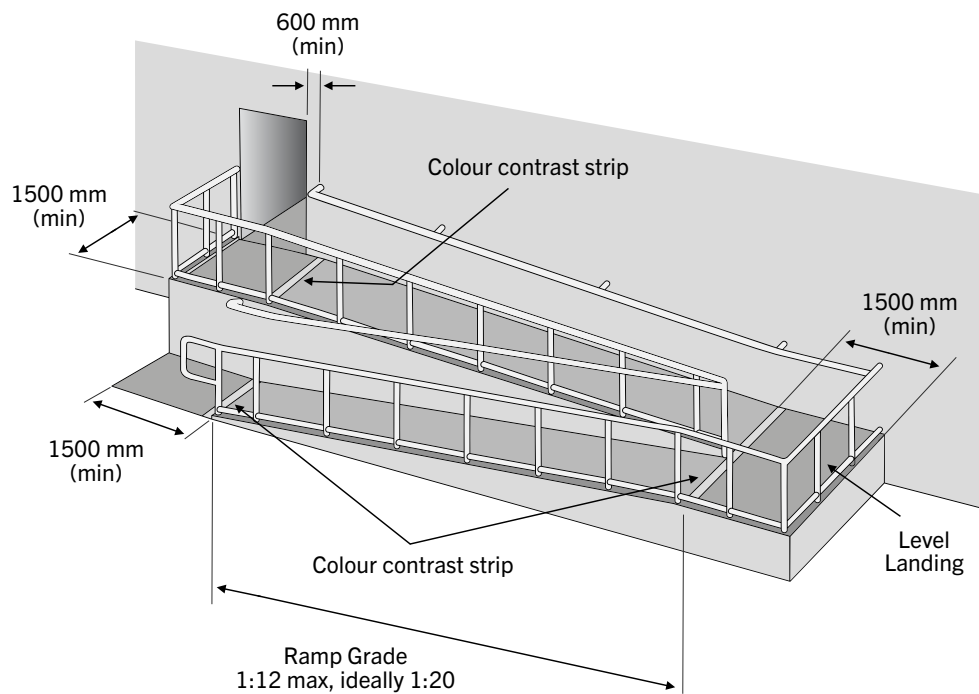Rick Hansen Foundation · Accessibility Certification™

- Avoid curved ramps. Ramp slopes should be straight.

- Plan for top and bottom landings to be 2400mm x 2400mm and intermediate landings 2000mm long (multiplied by) ramp width.

Notes:

- Handrail extensions at the top and bottom of ramps provide support and orientation for persons before they start using the ramp. The handrail extensions should be turned down or sideways so they do not create an obstacle.

- The clear width between handrails is limited so that people who use wheelchairs can use both handrails to pull themselves up the ramp.

Standard Ramp Features

600 mm (min)

1500 mm (min)

Colour contrast strip

1500 mm (min)

1500 mm (min)

Colour contrast strip

Level Landing

Ramp Grade
1:12 max, ideally 1:20

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