

# CODES & STANDARDS<sup>®</sup>

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## MEANS OF EGRESS BUILDING CODES 101 - PART 18

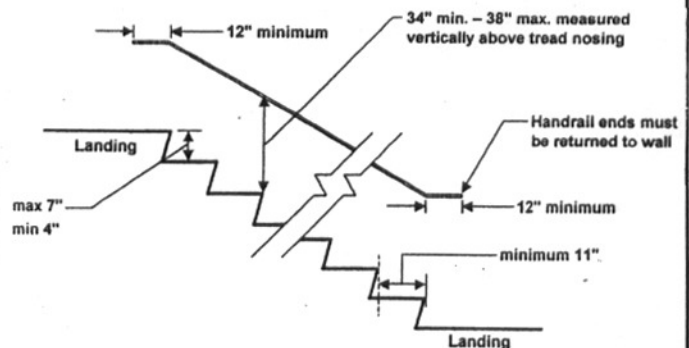
### CHAPTER 10 - MEANS OF EGRESS (Conclusion)

I WILL FINISH Means of Egress with stairway requirements (2006 IBC - Sections 1009 and 1012). Here are some items to remember:

- Treads and riser requirements have changed 21 times since 1975. They have stayed at 7-11 for three code change cycles.
- Stairways are a minimum of 44-in., unless serving less than 50 people (then 36"). The 44-in. is for two columns of people using the stairway. It comes from the old "22-in. units of exit width per person" in the early editions of the legacy codes.
- The code does not prohibit a "ladder effect" for the guard rails.
- Headroom must be a minimum of 80-in. measured vertically from the edge of the nosings.
- Handrail ends must return to the wall to prevent someone from getting caught in the overhang (i.e.: purse, large coat, etc.)
- Stairways must be built consistent with the construction type of the building. Wooden handrails are permitted in all construction types and cannot proceed more than 4.5-in. into the stairway.

Below is a table of stairway tread and riser requirements and an illustration from our *Principles of the International Building Code Workbook*.

Use Group	Maximum Riser	Minimum Riser	Minimum Tread
R-3 & Dwelling units within R-2	7.75 inches	-----	10 inches
All others	7 inches	4 inches	11 inches



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