

## Current Standards for Stairway Design

Standards for stairways are derived from how people walk, act and see. The design and construction features of safe stairs are intended to provide the public with stairways that are consistent in design and construction, and that include features to assist them to use the stairs safely.

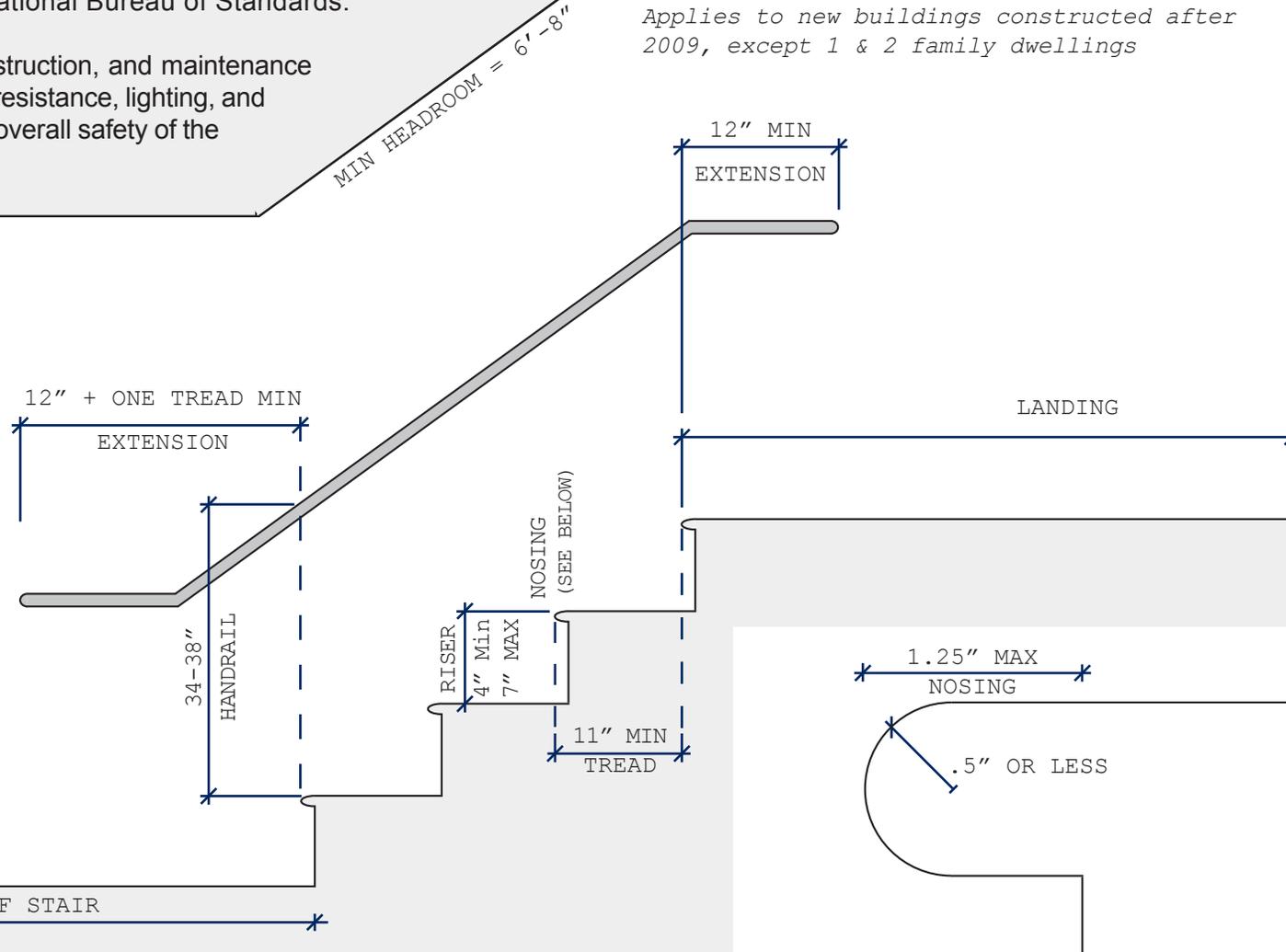
Standards for stairway design are defined in building codes, fire codes, and property maintenance codes. Standards are also published by ASTM, the National Safety Council, the NFPA Life Safety Code, and the National Bureau of Standards.

In addition to their dimensions, other design, construction, and maintenance factors contribute to stairway safety, including slip-resistance, lighting, and surroundings. All of these factors contribute to the overall safety of the condition.

**SOURCE: 2009 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE**  
*Applies to new buildings constructed after 2009, except 1 & 2 family dwellings*

### KEY ISSUES IN STAIRWAY SAFETY:

1. Variations in riser heights can cause trips and falls
2. When present, nosings need to be regular and conspicuous
3. Stairs with fewer than 4 risers are called "low rise stairs" and are associated with a higher frequency of falls
4. Handrails should be within 30" of any travel path
5. Flooring materials should be securely attached to treads and risers



The premises safety team at Robson Forensic investigates matters involving the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of residential, institutional and commercial premises. All of our experts are highly qualified, but depending upon the unique facets of your case, one expert may be better suited to assist with your investigation. Please contact one of our experts directly to discuss the matter at hand and how we can assist.