

Guidance On 30 Degrees Datum Point For Step Length And Ramp Size Calculations



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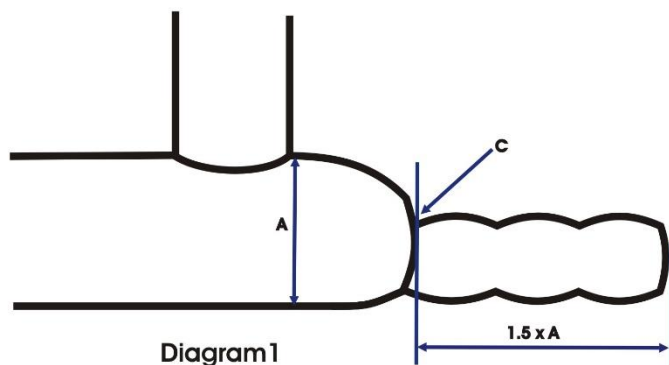
This technical bulletin will establish a common datum point (places measurements are taken from) to measure the amount a step or ramp must project from the front of an inflatable (the tread depth)

Figure 6 in BS/EN 14960 (diagram1) shows the datum point where the depth of the adjacent platform should be measured from, many inspectors use the upper seam of the step to front panel from which to measure the tread depth of the step, ramps do not have such a seam.

Any open side of an inflatable with an unloaded height of 630mm or greater must have a suitable step or ramp fitted.

Guidance

1. If you measure as indicated in figure 6 of BS/EN 14960-1 and find the step or ramp to be suitable then you may record your findings as a pass, be sure to record the dimensions used for this calculation.



Datum points;

A - The depth of the bed adjacent to the step

C - The point where the steps connects to the front of the adjacent bed

2. Should this calculation show the step or ramp tread to be short then you may consider an alternative assessment. This can be based on the following criteria.
 - Section 4.2.10 of BS/EN 14960 – 1 states: **“Slopes of less than 30 degrees shall be treated as a platform”** Therefore, suggesting that the bed, at the point it exceeds 30 degrees is no longer a platform
 - Section 4.2.3 of BS/EN 14960 – 1 states: **“A step or ramp shall have a tread depth of a minimum of 1,5 times the height of the adjacent playing area platform to which it is attached”**
 - Considering the above statements from BS/EN14906-1 the inspector assessing the depth of the tread may set a new datum point that shows the start point for the horizontal measurement to be at the point where the curve at the front of the play bed reaches an angle of 30 degrees, but not less. (Diagram 2)
 - All other factors regarding steps and ramps detailed in BS/En14960-1 must be considered and the inspector must record the measurements they used in their calculation.

Diagram 2: Guidance to Establish the datum point considered to be the maximum acceptable when carrying out a risk assessment.

