

Slip resistance information

Since 2014 there has been a provision within volume 2 of the BCA (now the National Construction Code) to control the slip resistance of stairs, treads and landings in various categories of building. Implementation and policing of this provision was somewhat irregular initially with some States not adopting the provision until 2016. Whilst similar requirements have been in place for many years for commercial stairs, etc., it is only recently that domestic dwellings were covered and consequently many specifiers and tradesmen are not familiar with the requirements.

The details of the requirements are reproduced below.

3.9.1.4 Slip-resistance

The requirements for slip-resistance treatment to stair treads, ramps and *landings* are as follows:

- (a) Treads must have—
 - (i) a surface with a slip-resistance classification not less than that listed in **Table 3.9.1.3** when tested in accordance with AS 4586; or
 - (ii) a nosing strip with a slip-resistance classification not less than that listed in **Table 3.9.1.3** when tested in accordance with AS 4586.
- (b) The floor surface of a ramp must have a slip-resistance classification not less than that listed in **Table 3.9.1.3** when tested in accordance with AS 4586.
- (c) *Landings*, where the edge leads to the *flight* below, must have—
 - (i) a surface with a slip-resistance classification not less than that listed in **Table 3.9.1.3** when tested in accordance with AS 4586, for not less than 190 mm from the stair nosing; or
 - (ii) a nosing strip with a slip-resistance classification not less than that listed in **Table 3.9.1.3** when tested in accordance with AS 4586.

Table 3.9.1.3 SLIP-RESISTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Application	Surface conditions	
	Dry	Wet
Ramp not steeper than 1:8	P4 or R10	P5 or R12
Tread surface	P3 or R10	P4 or R11
Nosing or landing edge strip	P3	P4

Explanatory information:

1. To determine the appropriate surface of a tread or the floor surface of a ramp, it is necessary to determine the likely conditions the tread or ramp will be subject to over the life of the building. This can be either dry, wet or both. A dry surface is one that is not normally wet or likely to be made wet other than by an accidental spill. A wet surface is one that is normally wet or likely to be made wet, including areas exposed to the weather.
2. Under **3.9.1.4(a)** stair treads must have a surface or nosing strip which minimises the risk of people slipping and injuring themselves. In each case the surface or nosing must have a slip-resistance classification when tested in accordance with AS 4586. There are two tests (the Wet Pendulum Test or the Oil-Wet Inclining Platform Test) and two conditions (dry or wet) to be considered.
3. Under **3.9.1.4(b)** the floor surface of a ramp must be slip-resistant to minimise the risk of people slipping and injuring themselves. The surface must have a slip-resistance classification when tested in accordance with AS 4586.

Many manufacturers of timber floor coatings do not have a ready-to-use finishing system which meets the P3 requirement for internal stairs but require contractors to add a slip resistant additive, made from a fine powder, prior to coating. This approach means that there is no control over the level of slip resistance which may be achieved as it is wholly reliant on the contractor understanding the process, being able to add exactly the right amount of material and keeping the material sufficiently agitated to ensure that it is evenly dispersed through the finish during the coating process. In addition, the resulting finished surface often has a slightly rough textured feel and, due to the influence of the particles with regard to light reflectance, it is difficult to ensure that the sheen level achieved is constant.

It is recommended that Bona Traffic HD Anti Slip is used for all areas where a P3 level of a slip resistance is required. Supplied as a ready-to-use product with no slip resistant additives required to be added on-site, using Bona Traffic HD AS ensures that the same level of slip resistance will be achieved on every contract. With a smooth surface and a constant 15 % Commercial matt sheen level Bona Traffic HD AS has a wear resistance suitable for timber flooring in commercial environments. In addition to this floors and stairs coated with Bona Traffic HD AS can be put back into full use after 24 hours assuming good site conditions, 20° C / 60% R.H. with reasonable ventilation, are maintained.

Please contact efp for additional information if required.

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