

## The Requirements K2 and K3

This Approved Document, which takes effect on 1 January 1998, deals with the following requirements from part K of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 1991 as amended by the Building Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 1997

<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Limits on application</i>
<p><b>Protection from falling</b></p> <p><b>K2.</b> (a) Any stairs, ramps, floors and balconies and any roof to which people have access, and (b) any light well, basement area or similar sunken area connected to a building, shall be provided with barriers where it is necessary to protect people in or about the building from falling.</p> <p><b>Vehicle barriers and loading bays</b></p> <p><b>K3.</b> (1) Vehicle ramps and any levels in a building to which vehicles have access, shall be provided with barriers where it is necessary to protect people in or about the building. (2) Vehicle loading bays shall be constructed in such a way, or be provided with such features, as may be necessary to protect people in them from collision with vehicles</p>	<p>Requirement K2(a) applies only to stairs and ramps which form part of the building.</p>

### Note

#### Attention is drawn to the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

Compliance with Building Regulation requirement K2 would, in accordance with Section 23(3) of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974, prevent the service of an improvement notice relating to guarding with regard to the requirements for protection from the risk of falling a distance likely to cause personal injury in Regulation 13 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.

Compliance with Building Regulation requirement K3 (b) would, in accordance with Section 23(3) of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974 prevent the service of an improvement notice relating to the design of loading bays under Regulation 17 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.

## Guidance

### Performance

In the Secretary of State's view the requirements of K2 and K3 will be met if, in order to reduce the risk to the safety of people in and about buildings:

- pedestrian guarding is provided in dwellings which is capable of preventing people from being injured by falling from a height of more than 600mm, and
- pedestrian guarding is provided in other buildings which is capable of preventing people from falling more than the height of two risers (or 380mm, if not part of a stair).
- vehicle barriers are provided which are capable of resisting or deflecting the impact of vehicles.

- loading bays are provided with an adequate number of exits or refuges which enable people to avoid being struck or crushed by vehicles.

An acceptable level of safety can be achieved by different standards of provision for guarding, depending on the circumstances; for example in a public building the standard of provision may be higher than in a dwelling, to reflect the lesser familiarity and greater number of users.

For areas where access is required only for the purpose of maintenance, greater care can be expected from those gaining access, and it would be reasonable that less demanding provisions could satisfy the requirement.