



Accessible boarding points: Removable gangway design - ferries

As there is currently no differentiation in the Transport Standards between vehicle boarding ramps and removable gangways for vessels, the specifications for gangway design are not fit for purpose and do not reflect a dynamic operating marine environment. There is an opportunity to provide clarity for public transport operators and providers on the design specifications for removable gangways.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

Transport Standards Section 6.2 *Boarding ramps*, would remain unchanged and no guidance material would be issued.

Non-regulatory option

Guidance would be updated to include advice on removable gangways, including:

- Removable gangway design, including dimensions, grabrail and contrast recommendations
- Maximum gradient for independent access
- Operators may choose to follow the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV), *Part C: Design and construction, Section 1 Arrangement, accommodation and personal safety, Chapter 6.16.3, Gangways*

Regulatory option

Transport Standards Section 6.2 would be amended to include the following (including any requirements retained or amended from the status quo):

- Removable gangways must comply with the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV), Part C: Design and construction, section 1 Arrangement, accommodation and personal safety, Chapter 6.16.3, Gangways.
- Removable gangways may be convex in profile:
 - For unassisted access, no part of the curve should exceed a gradient of 1:8 while the removable gangway is deployed.

- If gradient on the curve exceeds 1:8 then assisted access must be available.
- Gangways may be articulated to achieve the 1:8 maximum gradient over the curve.
- Removable gangways must have a 50 to 75 millimetre strip on the gangway's leading edges, must provide a luminance contrast with the surfaces on which they are deployed by at least 30 percent. Luminance contrast of more than 45 per cent, such as 60 per cent, is preferable.
- Removable gangways must have handrails both sides and at least 800 millimetres clear width between handrails, with a greater width preferred if safe and practicable.
- Handrails must comply with AS1428.1 (2009), *Design for access and mobility, Clause 12 (b)* with a preference for handrail diameter in the 30 to 40 millimetre range.

These requirements would pertain to ferries and pontoon wharves.

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or The Whole Journey Guide would be updated to include advice on removable gangways.

Have your say

Public consultation on the Stage 2 reform of the Transport Standards will open from 15 March to 9 August 2022.

For further information:

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- **Survey:** <https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=28713&name=removable-gangway-design--ferries>