

EN 14960:2013 clause 4.2.3 - Guidance on the measurement of bed height

There has been some confusion about where to measure the height of “the adjacent playing area platform” which we have to do in order to work out how long the step tread depth must be. Note the word “platform”. The definition of platform, at 3.13 in the standard, is “any surface on which a user may stand”.

Much depends upon the shaping of the internal ties towards the front of the bed. If the tie has no shaping, measurement of the height of the platform is straightforward – see Figure 1.

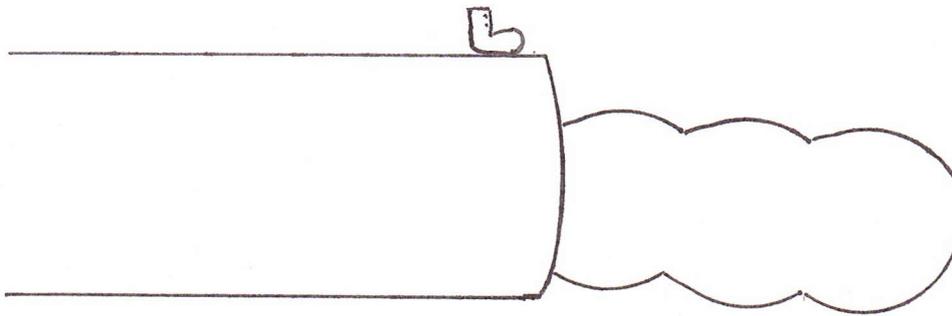


Figure 1 – cross-section of bed and step
Measure the height where the user stands before alighting.

If the tie is shaped by having a chamfer taken off of the front end, the resulting platform slopes down from the highest point of the bed towards the step – see Figure 2

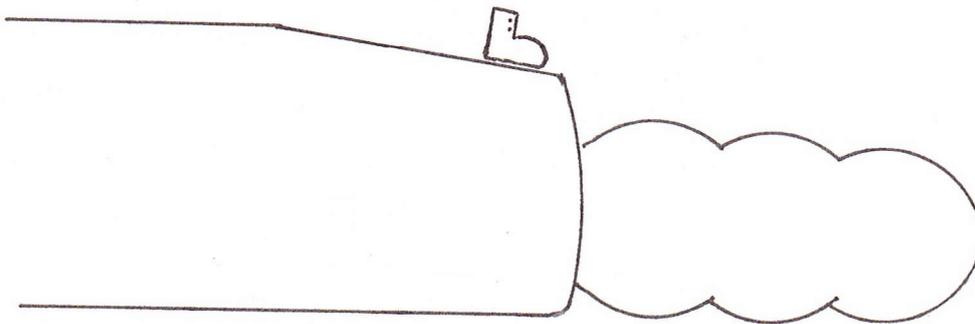


Figure 2 – cross-section of bed and step
Measure the height where the user stands before alighting.

As we all know, if the step tread depth is at least 1.5 times the adjacent platform height measurement we deem it as a pass and all new inflatables should comply.

What if the inflatable you are inspecting is a couple or more years old? It might well have had its step seams re-stitched to take in delamination. In such a case, the step tread depth will have been shortened by a few centimetres and might not be 1.5 times the adjacent platform height. In such a case we have to decide if the step is still safe for use. Gather information from the owner and from the writing on the inflatable as to the size and number of users, method of operation, supervision, history of accidents etc. and then use our risk assessment method to determine if we are going to pass the step as safe or not. Make a note of your method and thinking at the time because such information will be needed if there is a subsequent accident.