

Portable Ramps – Information Sheet Item No. 5.1

December 6th, 2013

Jurisdiction

Permanent ramps of a commercial nature are regulated by the Nova Scotia Building Code. This code is enforced by the individual municipalities. Portable ramps are not included in this code. The building code sets a minimum standard for construction.

Standards

While there is no legislative standard for portable ramps, most manufacturers of portable ramps detail a standard as their recommended use. This includes a standard for the weight they will support and the height of steps they will overcome. The rule followed is that for every one inch of rise a portable ramp should be one twelve inches in length. This rule is for the safety of the user. A portable ramp for one step of six inches would be recommended as six feet in length.

Types of Portable Ramps

Manufactured portable ramps are classified into three basic types:

1. Mat Ramps
2. Threshold Ramps
3. Suitcase Ramps

Mat ramps are rubber ramps that weigh up to forty pounds and cover a rise up to 2 and a half inches. Threshold ramps are made of aluminum or another light alloy and weigh up to twenty pounds while suitable for most thresholds. Often a threshold ramp is needed on both sides of the threshold. Suitcase ramps are made of aluminum or a light alloy. They are so named as they fold in the middle and have a handle to facilitate carrying. They often come in two pieces weighing about fifteen pounds each. Suitcase ramps can be used for up to twelve inches of rise and in that case would be twelve feet in length when unfolded.

Costs of Portable Ramps

The cost of portable ramps is between \$400.00 and \$1,000.00. This largely depends on the length required.