

Kids Can't Fly

Children are experiencing falls from a variety of different types of dwellings ranging from apartment buildings, townhouses or duplex type accommodation and free standing homes.

The Building Code of Australia (BCA) has always contained measures to prevent falls from heights.

Until relatively recently, there were no specific requirements for windows, designers and certifiers would try to adapt the requirements for balustrades and apply them to windows.

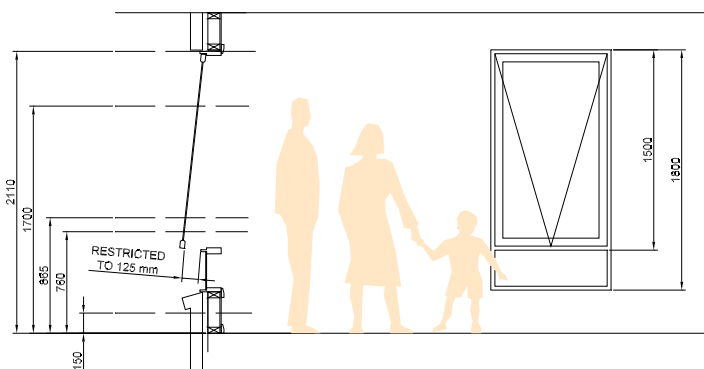
Finally, in 2009 specific requirements for windows were introduced. They were incorporated with, but distinct from the balustrade requirements. The wording has changed slightly over the years, but the essential details of the requirements have remained the same since BCA2009.

Conditions:

- Opening within 865 mm of the floor; and
- Climbable element between 150 and 760 mm above the floor.

Restrictions:

- Opening must be permanently restricted to 125 mm; or
- Fitted with a non-removable robust screen.

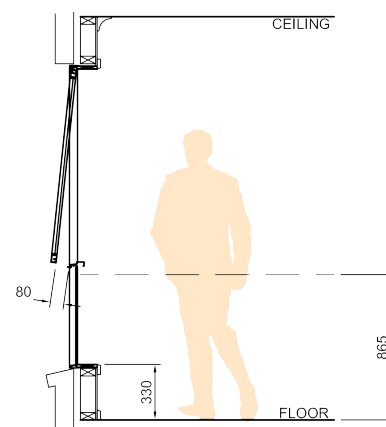


Conditions:

- Opening is between 865 and 1700 mm above the floor; and
- Climbable element between 150 and 760 mm above the floor.

Restrictions:

- Opening must be permanently restricted to 125 mm.



Above are two examples of conditions where restriction is required.
For more examples, visit the AWA website at www.awa.org.au