

## FACT SHEET

### Standards for RDA Ramps

RDA Australia follows industry standards and best practice models for design, use and building of mounting facilities for use in RDA centres and at RDA activities. The minimum standard for RDA mounting facilities is they must safely meet the needs of the participants at the centre. For a newly established Centre this may mean that a mounting block with steps is suitable for participants where all current participants are ambulant. Suitable mounting blocks include:

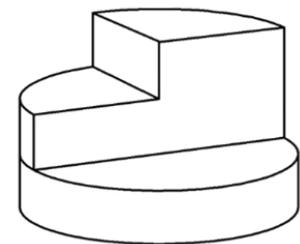
- Commercially available equestrian mounting steps.
- Privately constructed mounting steps (in timber/steel).

Ideally, the mounting step should be wide enough to accommodate the rider and the Coach, must be positioned on a level surface and each step must be the same height as the step preceding it.

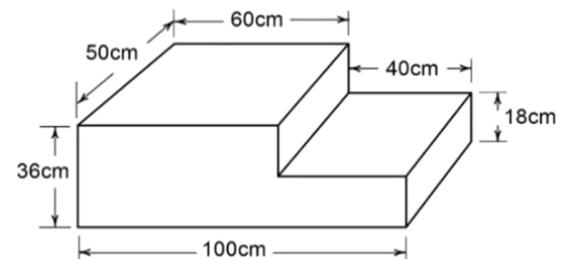
RDA prohibits the use of milk or soft-drink crates or step ladders. This equipment poses safety concerns as they are not designed for equestrian use and can easily upturn and a horse can become entangled in the equipment.

RDA Centres should work towards installing a wheelchair ramp so future participants in wheelchairs or with restricted mobility can be catered for.

The Australian Standards set requirements for fixed platforms and walkways and many of these standards apply to RDA ramps.



Commercial equestrian mounting step



Privately constructed mounting step

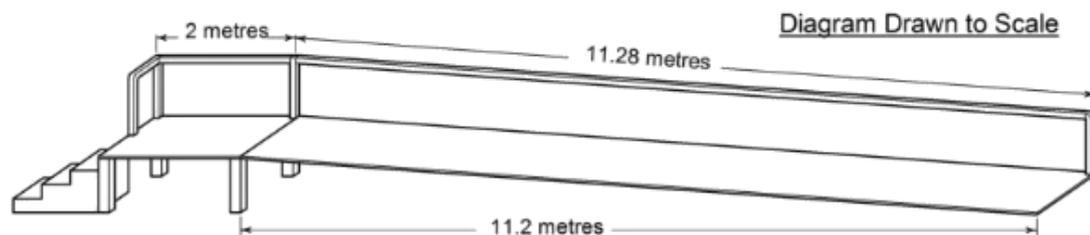
#### Australian Standards:

- The platform (landing) must a minimum of 1.2 m x 1.2 m (recommended 1.5 m to include turning space for a wheelchair and for two persons to work safely side by side).
- The ramp (walkway) must be a clear 1 m width as a minimum, (recommended as 1.2 m width).
- The gradient required is 1:14 on the ramp incline (recommended gradient to allow a person in a wheelchair to self-propel up the ramp).
- Handrail heights of 900 mm high (a second handrail is recommended for use by children at the height of 600 mm high).
- Handrails are smooth, uninterrupted and extend beyond the entrance to the ramp or steps and must finish with a closed curve at the end. Circular cross-sections with a diameter of 40 mm is recommended.
- The entrance to the ramp or steps should have a gap of no more than 3 mm between the ramp and the walking path surface to avoid tripping.
- The surface of the ramp and platform must be slip resistant and materials used must be suitable for wear in the environment it is constructed. For example if the ramp is outdoors it must be constructed from weather resistant materials.
- The ramp and platform must have a minimum load rating of 300 kg.



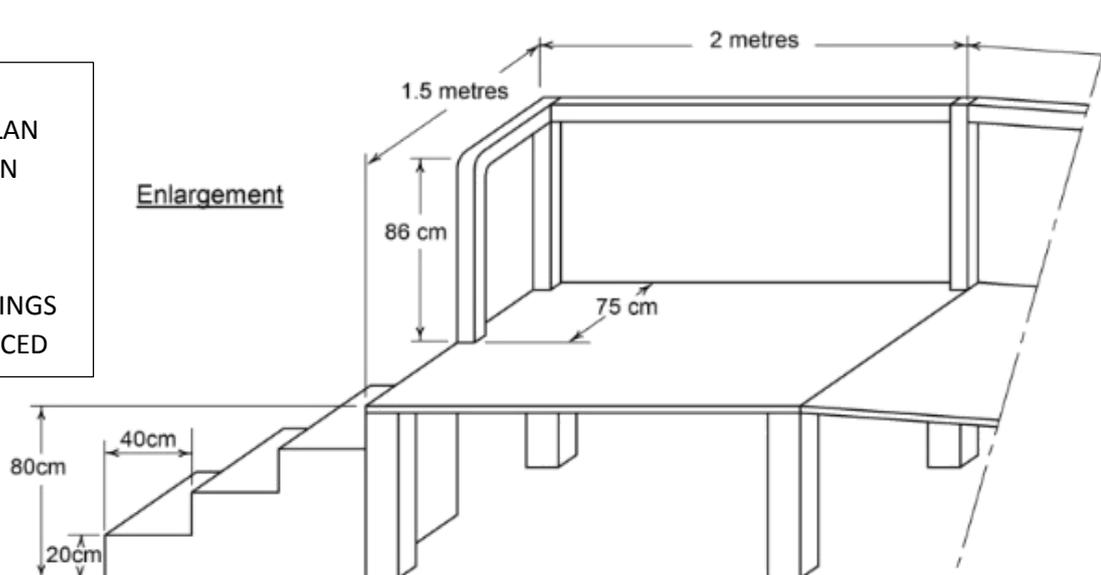
## FACT SHEET

### MOUNTING RAMP



THIS IS THE  
CURRENT PLAN  
AVAILABLE IN  
COACHING  
MANUALS.

NEW DRAWINGS  
TO BE SOURCED



### Additional Standards for RDA accreditation

The following additional standards are recommended specifically for RDA purposes:

- The edge of the mounting platform where the horse stands should have a slightly raised edge. This can be achieved with a thin strip of timber beading to prevent a rider or Coach's foot slipping off the platform during the mounting process.
- A strip of high visibility paint or tape is marked along the open edges of the ramp and platform to highlight the edges for vision impaired participants. A contrasting tactile strip of at least 900 mm long can also be placed at the beginning of the ramp to alert riders with partial sight of the entrance to the ramp.
- Steps are added to the exit end of the ramp so the coach can step down from the platform to assist a mounted rider as they exit the ramp. This also reduces the potential for injury to Coaches and volunteers from jumping down from the platform.
- A second removable step may be placed on the opposite side the ramp to assist the person helping on the offside of the horse to position high support riders.
- Signage on the ramp to indicate that access is by authorised persons only. A gate at the entrance to the ramp can assist with limiting the number of people accessing the ramp.
- If space allows, two platforms at different heights can be more versatile to assist with mounting both ponies and horses. The ideal height is 800mm for horses and 600mm for ponies

