Bar, counter and stool *heights*: tops, overhangs and footrails

Bar, counter and stool heights in millimetres, each with its datum, and the accessible section from Approved Document M. Ranges are conventional practice.

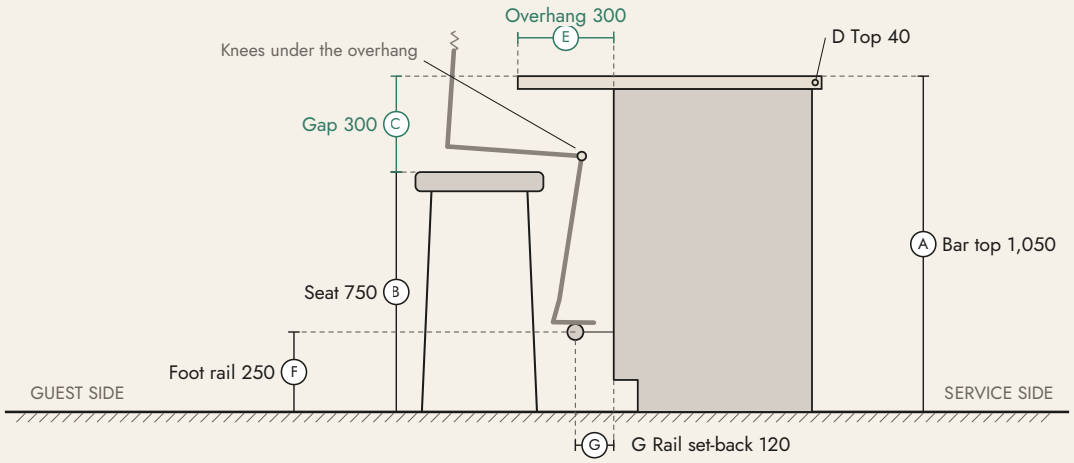
Compliance guidance. Accessible-counter figures were read in Approved Document M, Volume 2 (2015 edition with 2020 and 2024 amendments, England), paragraph 4.16. BS 8300-2:2018 was not read. Check the current edition, building control and the licensing authority. Guidance, not legal advice.

AT A GLANCE

Ref	Dimension	Typical range (mm)	Measured from and to	Basis and notes
A	Bar top, or counter top	Bar 1,000 to 1,100; counter 900 to 950	Finished floor to the finished top surface	Our Table heights guide. Our bar stools page conflicts (see unverified).
B	Stool seat	Bar stool 700 to 780; counter stool 600 to 680	Finished floor to the top of the loaded seat	Our guide. Say loaded or unloaded.
C	Gap, seat to top surface	220 to 300	Loaded seat to the top surface (vertical)	Our guide. Bands agree only at their lower ends: see the table.
D	Top thickness	Set by the material	Top surface to underside	Our guide uses a 40 stone top as its example.
E	Overhang	About 250 to 350	Bar front face to the front edge of the top	Typical practice. Depends on material, thickness and support.
F	Foot rail height	About 200 to 300	Finished floor to the top of the rail	Typical practice. Partner to confirm the fixing load.
G	Foot rail set-back	About 100 to 150	Bar front face to the centre of the rail	Typical practice.
H	Stool pitch	About 550 to 650	Centre to centre along the front	Typical practice. 600 is common. Arms need more.
I	Stool centre from the bar front	About 400 to 450	Front face of the bar to the centre of the seat	Typical practice. Sets how far the seat tucks under.
J	Clear passage behind the stools	No figure given	Stool seat edge to the next obstruction	Fire, licensing and access plan. Not given here.
	Accessible section of a bar or counter	Not more than 850	Floor to the working surface	Approved Document M vol 2, para 4.16(b), England. A maximum, not a target. A tea-making worktop is 850 with at least 700 clear beneath (4.16c).

Millimetres, from the finished floor; 1,050 mm is 41 inches. A to D are the ranges in our Table heights guide; E to I are typical practice for our partner workshops to confirm; the last row is from Approved Document M.

SECTION THROUGH A BAR



Heights from finished floor level. Backless stool and seated figure are schematic.

A top, B seat, C gap, D top, E overhang, F foot rail, G set-back. To scale; the seated figure is schematic.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

BAR TOP AND STOOL

Finished bar top height [1,050] mm above finished floor level, measured to the finished top surface, tolerance [ ] mm. Top thickness [40] mm. Stool seat height [750] mm to the top of the loaded seat (unloaded [ ] mm). Gap from seat to top surface [300] mm. Heights to be confirmed on a mock-up with the actual stool before production.

OVERHANG, FOOT RAIL AND PITCH

Top overhang [300] mm beyond the finished bar front, supported by [steel brackets at [ ] mm centres or legs] as shown on the shop drawing; maximum unsupported overhang to be confirmed by the fabricator for the stated material and thickness. Foot rail [50] mm diameter [brass or stainless steel] tube, centre [250] mm above finished floor level and [120] mm from the bar front, fixed to carry a person's weight [load to be stated by the supplier]. Stool pitch [600] mm centre to centre.

ACCESSIBLE SECTION

Accessible section of the working surface, [ ] mm long, at [840] mm above finished floor level and not more than 850 mm anywhere along its length, with knee space beneath [ ] mm wide, [ ] mm deep and [ ] mm clear height, taken from [BS 8300-2:2018 or the access consultant's drawing]. Height measured from finished floor level at [ ] points and recorded before handover.

TERMS USED

Overhang
How far the bar top projects beyond the front of the bar, giving knee room for a seated guest. A stone or heavy top may need brackets or legs.

Knee space
The clear space under a counter or bar top for a seated person's knees. Its width, depth and clear height for wheelchair users come from the access consultant or BS 8300-2, not from this sheet.

Foot rail
A tube or bar set low in front of a bar for a seated guest to rest a foot on. Its height, set-back and fixing load are stated on the drawing.

Stool pitch
The distance between the centres of neighbouring stools along a bar. It sets how many seats a run has.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document M, Volume 2 (2015 edition with 2020 and 2024 amendments, England): paras 4.3, 4.13, 4.16 and Diagram 16 read.
- BS 8300-2:2018: reference for knee space; not read.
- BS EN 16139:2025: non-domestic seating, for stools; not read.
- Make Bespoke Studio journal: Table heights: source of ranges A to D.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/bar-counter-and-stool-heights. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.