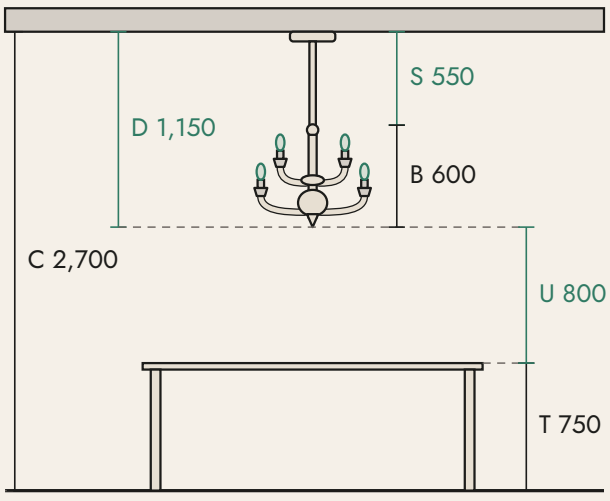
Chandelier *sizing* and hanging heights

The common rules of thumb for chandelier diameter and hanging height in millimetres, the one regulated figure (stair headroom), the suspension-length arithmetic and a plan and elevation. A lighting designer sets the final figures.

AT A GLANCE

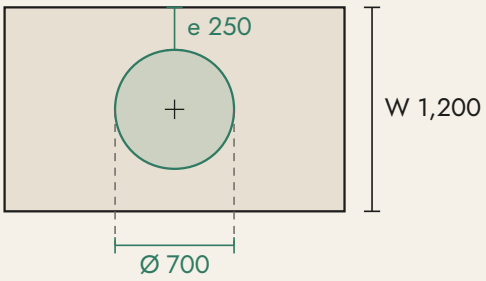
Situation	Common figure	Status
Diameter over a table	1/2 to 2/3 of the table width	Convention. 1,200 mm wide: 600 to 800 mm
Diameter from room size	About 8.3 cm per metre of length plus width	Convention, the weakest
Body height from ceiling	About 1/5 to 1/4 of ceiling height	Convention, proportion only
Above a dining table	750 to 900 mm, table top to lowest point	Convention, guides agree
Above a counter or island	700 to 900 mm, top to lowest point	Convention, guides differ
Above a bed	600 to 750 mm above the mattress	Convention, one source
Over circulation	From about 2,100 mm above the floor	Convention. Legal floor 2,000 mm
Over a stair	2,000 mm clear above the pitch line	Approved Document K, England
Double-height void	Lowest point near upper floor level	Convention; engineer decides
Clearance to table edge	(table width minus diameter) / 2	Arithmetic from the first rule
Suspension length	Drop minus body height	Arithmetic, exact

Millimetres, heights from the finished floor unless stated. These are design conventions from published guides, not standards; the only regulated figure is the 2,000 mm headroom. A lighting designer sets the final figures.



Elevation

C = ceiling height (floor to ceiling)
D = drop: ceiling to lowest point
S = suspension: canopy, chain or rod
B = body of the fitting
T = table top, U = clear height above it
W = table width, Ø = diameter, e = edge clearance



Plan, looking down

Elevation and plan of a chandelier over a table, with the example figures worked on this page, in millimetres. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio, not to scale and not a design.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

DIMENSIONS ON THE DRAWING

Overall diameter [700] mm. Body height [600] mm. Suspension (canopy and chain or rod) [550] mm, adjustable on site by [ ] mm. Drop [1,150] mm from finished ceiling level to the lowest point. Finished ceiling level [2,700] mm and finished floor level shown on the same elevation. Lowest point [1,550] mm above finished floor level. Definitions of diameter, body, suspension and drop to be stated on the drawing.

OVER A TABLE

Lowest point of the fitting [800] mm above the finished table top (range [750 to 900] mm); table top [750] mm above finished floor level. Fitting centred on the table [in both directions]. Diameter not more than [two-thirds] of the table width. Height to be confirmed on site against a full-size template before the chain or rod is cut or fixed.

OVER CIRCULATION OR A STAIR

Lowest point not lower than [2,100] mm above finished floor level over circulation, and not lower than [ ] mm above the pitch line over a stair, as set by the lighting designer and confirmed with the building control body. The minimum clear headroom required by building control (not less than 2,000 mm under Approved Document K in England) is not to be reduced.

SUSPENSION AND ADJUSTMENT

Chain or rod supplied [over-length / adjustable by [ ] mm] so that the lowest point can be set after floor and table levels are final. Final length to be set on site by [installer] and recorded on the as-built drawing. The structural engineer's fixing is not to be altered to achieve a height.

TERMS USED

Drop
On this sheet, the distance from the finished ceiling to the lowest point of the fitting.

Suspension length
The canopy and the chain or rod that carry the body: the drop minus the body height.

Finished floor level (FFL)
The height of the completed floor surface, including any covering. Heights are measured from it.

Pitch line
The sloping line joining the nosings of the steps in a stair flight. Stair headroom is measured from it.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document K, 2013 edition (England): Read 5 Nov 2026: paragraphs 1.11 and 1.12, Diagram 1.3 (2 m headroom).
- Approved Document M, Volume 2, 2015 edition incl. 2024 amendments (England): Checked: no headroom figure for hung fittings.
- British Standards: No British Standard for chandelier size or hanging height was identified.
- Published lighting guides (UK and US retail): Source of the conventions, read 5 Nov 2026. Not authorities.
- Make Bespoke Studio journal: Table heights: table tops and seat heights.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/chandelier-sizing-and-hanging-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.