Chandeliers in *stairwells*, atria and lobbies

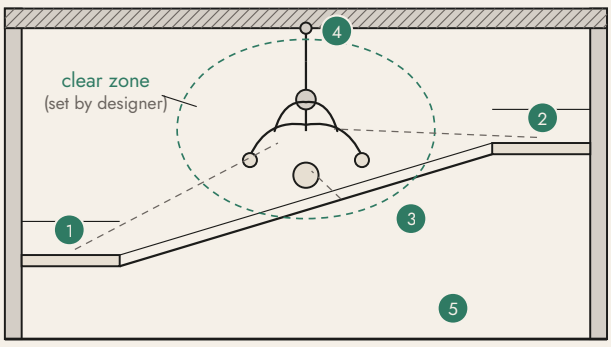
A large chandelier over a stair void or lobby is a heavy suspended load above people. Scale, structure, a secondary suspension, the stair, the fire strategy and access all have to be settled first. No dimensions or loads are given.

Compliance guidance. This is educational, qualitative guidance. It gives no dimensions, weights, clearances or safe working loads. The structural design, the fire strategy and the installation method are for a chartered structural engineer, a fire engineer and a competent installer, and the legal duties for the people you appoint. This is guidance, not engineering, legal or health and safety advice.

AT A GLANCE

Item	Why it matters	Who decides	Ask
Scale	A fitting that looks right from one landing can be lost, or crowd the stair, from another	Lighting designer; interior designer	Has the fitting been checked from every landing and from the stair itself?
Load path	A heavy suspended load over people; the structure above the void may be a roof, a slab or a rooflight	Structural engineer	Is the fixing designed for this fitting and this structure, and signed off?
Secondary suspension	A second path in case the first fails, over a stair or lobby where people pass beneath	Structural engineer; partner workshop	Is there a second path, and does the engineer approve it?
Stair and balustrade	The fitting and its drops must stay clear of the stair headroom and the balustrade	Architect; stair designer	What is the clearance to stair, handrail and balustrade, and who checked it?
Fire and smoke strategy	Large fittings can obstruct smoke vents, sprinklers, detectors or emergency lighting	Fire engineer	Has the fire engineer seen the fitting and its position?
Access for maintenance	Cleaning and re-lamping a high fitting is work at height, and lowering gear is lifting equipment	Operator; designer; installer	How does a person reach or lower it, and is that on the drawings?
Getting it in	Large fittings are delivered in sections and must go through the stair void and the door	Partner workshop; installer	Can it be built in sections, and what route does each take?

A coordination list, not a design. Responsibility shown is the usual split; confirm it in your own contract documents.



Key

1 Sightline from the lower landing

2 Sightline from the upper landing

3 Sightline from the stair

4 Rigging point and secondary line

5 Where a person reaches or lowers it

Conceptual section, not to scale.
No dimensions or loads implied.

Conceptual section through a stair void: the fitting, the clear zone round it, sightlines from the landings and stair, the rigging point and the access route. Not to scale; no dimensions or loads are implied. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

CHECKLIST BEFORE THE FITTING IS MADE

1 Engineer designs and signs off the fixing and secondary suspension. 2 Partner workshop declares weight and how it divides. 3 Scale checked from every landing and in a mock-up. 4 Clear zone agreed. 5 Fire engineer reviews position. 6 Access method chosen and drawn. 7 Installer's method statement. 8 Handover records.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT

Fitting [tag] at [location] is to be cleanable and re-lampable by [method: fixed platform / lowering gear / other] without work in an unprotected position. The supplier and installer are to propose the access method with the shop drawings for approval by [designer], and the method is to be supported by drawings of any structure, platform or winch it requires. Maintenance instructions and any examination records are to be included in the O&M information.

STRUCTURE AND SECONDARY SUSPENSION

The fixing of fitting [tag] to the structure, and any secondary suspension, is to be designed and approved by [structural engineer] against the declared weight. The fitting is not to be hung until that approval is on file. [Approval ref.]

CLEARANCES AND FIRE

Fitting [tag] and its drops are to maintain the clearances shown on drawing [ref] to the stair, handrail and balustrade, and are to be reviewed by [fire engineer] against smoke control, sprinkler, detector and emergency lighting provisions before manufacture. [Confirmation ref.]

DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION

The supplier is to supply the fitting in sections that can be delivered and installed through [route] and is to provide a method statement from the installer covering lifting, work at height and protection of the stair and floors below, for approval by [contractor] before delivery.

TERMS USED

Secondary suspension

A second, independent connection between a suspended fitting and the structure, intended to hold the fitting if the primary suspension fails.

Lowering gear

A manual or motorised winch that lowers a heavy fitting to floor level for cleaning and re-lamping. Also called a chandelier winch or hoist.

LOLER

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. Regulation 8 requires lifting operations to be properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised and carried out in a safe manner.

Clear zone

In this sheet, the space round a hanging fitting that must be kept free of stair, balustrade, glazing and equipment. Its size is set by the designer and installer, not by this sheet.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998, reg 8: read 7 Nov 2026.
- Work at Height Regulations 2005, reg 6: read 7 Nov 2026.
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, reg 9: read 7 Nov 2026.
- Building Regulations 2010, Schedule 1, A1 Loading: read 7 Nov 2026.
- Approved Documents K and B: not read for this sheet: confirm applicability to your fitting with building control.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/chandeliers-in-stairwells-atria-and-lobbies. 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.