Floors and accessibility: *thresholds*, LRV and slip

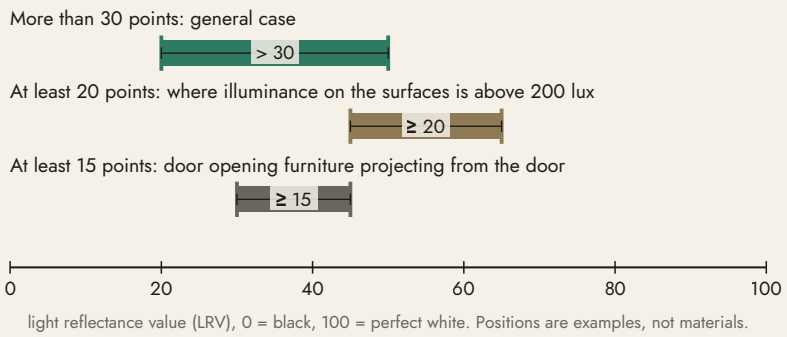
What Approved Document M volume 2 (England, buildings other than dwellings) asks of floors: the LRV contrast test, thresholds and landings, slip and patterns, with paragraph numbers.

Compliance guidance. Figures are from Approved Document M volume 2, 2015 edition incorporating 2024 amendments, for use in England and for buildings other than dwellings, read on 7 November 2026 with the paragraph named. Dwellings (volume 1), Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own documents, which we did not read, and we did not read the text of BS 8300-2:2018. Check the current editions and your building control body. Guidance, not legal or accessibility advice.

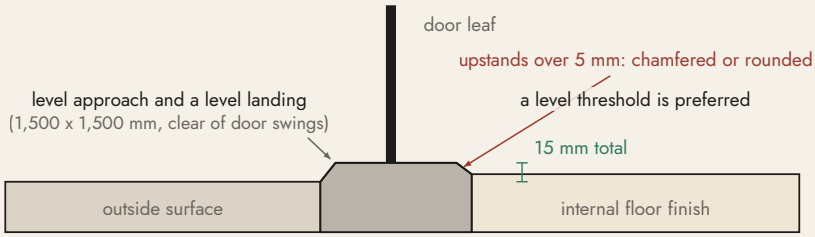
AT A GLANCE

Topic	What Approved Document M volume 2 says	Paragraph (printed page)	Notes
Visual contrast	A difference in light reflectance value between two surfaces of more than 30 points; at least 20 points where the illuminance on the surfaces is above 200 lux; at least 15 points for door opening furniture that projects from the door.	0.26 (definition), p.15	Applied where the document asks surfaces to contrast: door furniture (2.17), internal doors (3.10), sanitary fittings against wall and floor finishes (5.4 k), among others.
Entrance threshold	Level, or if a raised threshold is unavoidable a total height of not more than 15 mm, with a minimum number of upstands and slopes; any upstand higher than 5 mm chamfered or rounded.	2.7 (e), p.24	A level threshold is preferred (2.6). 'Level' means predominantly level with a gradient of at most 1:60 along the direction of travel (0.26).
Landing at the entrance	A level landing at least 1,500 x 1,500 mm, clear of any door swings, immediately in front of the entrance, in a material that does not impede wheelchairs.	2.7 (d), p.24	Applies to accessible entrances.
Surfaces next to the threshold	Internal floor surfaces next to the threshold do not impede wheelchairs (for example not coir matting); changes in floor materials do not create a potential trip hazard; a mat in a mat well is level with the adjacent floor finish.	2.7 (h), (i), p.24; 2.29 (e), (g), p.27	The same for entrance lobbies (2.29).
Slip	Floor surfaces in reception, corridors and passageways are slip resistant; floors of changing areas next to showers, showers and accessible bathrooms are slip resistant, dry and wet (showers also self-draining). No value is given.	3.6 (g), 3.14 (k), 5.18 (i), (o), 5.21 (c)	See our slip-resistance sheet for the test and for what to ask for.
Patterns and glare	Floor finishes with patterns that could be mistaken for steps or changes of level are avoided in corridors; glare, reflection from shiny surfaces and large repeating patterns are to be avoided where visual acuity is critical.	3.14 (j), p.31; 4.32, p.45	No pattern is named. Whether a particular herringbone, chevron or polished stone falls within it is a judgement for the accessibility adviser.

Approved Document M volume 2, 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments, for use in England, read 7 Nov 2026. Buildings other than dwellings only.



The three LRV differences in the definition of visual contrast (paragraph 0.26): the LRV positions are examples to show a gap, not materials. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



Section, not to scale. Approved Document M volume 2, paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7.

Section through an entrance threshold with the 15 mm total height and the 5 mm upstand rule (paragraph 2.7 e). Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio, not to scale.

WHAT THE FLOOR SCHEDULE HOLDS

LRV of each finished floor measured to BS 8493; every threshold and change of finish with its total height and upstand; slip method and result on the finished sample, wet; the finish and the pattern for the access adviser; the mat well depth so the mat is level with the floor.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

CONTRAST

Floor finish [ref] in [space] is to have a measured light reflectance value of [ ] (BS 8493) and to differ from [wall finish ref, LRV] by not less than [ ] points, as required by Approved Document M volume 2 paragraph [5.4 (k) / other], the illuminance on the surfaces being [ ] lux. The partner is to submit the measured LRV of the finished sample for approval before production.

THRESHOLD AND LEVEL CHANGES

Entrance threshold at [door ref]: [level / raised not more than 15 mm in total, upstands over 5 mm chamfered or rounded] as drawing [ref], with a level landing not less than 1,500 x 1,500 mm clear of door swings. Changes of finish at [locations] are to be flush at the finished level, with a transition strip [type] as drawing [ref]. Mat well [depth] so that the mat is level with the adjacent floor.

SLIP AND PATTERN

Slip resistance of [finish] to be tested wet to [method and edition] on a production sample as laid, result [ ] before fabrication, target set by [designer / duty holder] (see the slip clause). The pattern [ref] in [corridor] is to be reviewed by [accessibility adviser] against Approved Document M volume 2 paragraphs 3.14 (j) and 4.32 before the sample is approved.

TERMS USED

Light reflectance value (LRV)

The total quantity of visible light reflected by a surface at all wavelengths and directions when lit by a light source, on a scale from 0 (black) to 100 (perfect white). Approved Document M, paragraph 0.26. Measured to BS 8493.

Contrast visually

In Approved Document M, a difference in LRV between two surfaces of more than 30 points; at least 20 points where the illuminance on them is above 200 lux; at least 15 points for projecting door opening furniture (paragraph 0.26).

Level (Approved Document M)

Predominantly level, with a maximum gradient along the direction of travel of 1:60 (paragraph 0.26).

Upstand

A raised lip at a threshold or floor junction. Where a raised entrance threshold is unavoidable, any upstand higher than 5 mm is chamfered or rounded (paragraph 2.7 e).

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document M volume 2: Access to and use of buildings other than dwellings, 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments (England): read in full text 7 Nov 2026; paragraphs 0.26, 2.6 to 2.7, 2.28 to 2.29, 3.6, 3.14, 4.32, 5.4, 5.18, 5.21.
- BS 8300-2:2018: BSI listing: current (2009 edition withdrawn), as seen in our slip and Part M sheets' notes, 5 Nov 2026. Text not read.
- BS 8493:2008+A1:2010: LRV method of test: current on BSI Knowledge (seen 7 Nov 2026); a draft revision is open for comment. Text not read.
- Our sheets: Slip resistance for floors; Floor transitions and movement joints

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/floors-and-accessibility. 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.