Home cinema seating *platforms* and sightlines

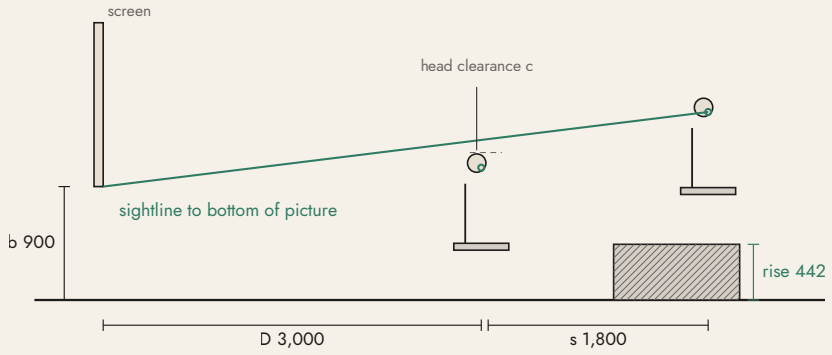
The platform rise is sightline geometry, not a published figure. Steps and guards need building control.

Compliance guidance. Read on 8 November 2026 from Approved Document K (2013 edition) and Approved Document M volume 2 (2015 edition incorporating the 2020 and 2024 amendments). No source for home cinema row spacing, riser height or viewing distance was found: the sightline figures are our own geometry with example values. This is guidance, not engineering, legal or accessibility advice; confirm steps and guards with building control, the structure with a structural engineer and the sound with an acoustician. The studio does not claim that it or its partner workshops supply any particular seating or platform.

AT A GLANCE

Item	What the source says	Source	Note
Rise of the rear row	Found by sightline geometry from seat, screen and spacing; example 442 mm	Our geometry	Inputs are examples, not standards.
Step rise, private stair	150 to 220 mm; going 220 to 300 mm	ADK 1.3, Table 1.1	A rise above 220 mm needs a different arrangement.
Guard height, dwelling	900 mm at stairs, landings, ramps, internal floor edges	ADK Diagram 3.1	Balcony or roof edge: 1,100 mm.
Drop that triggers a guard at a flight or landing, dwelling	More than 600 mm	ADK 1.41	Elsewhere, where reasonably necessary (3.1).
Guard in front of fixed seating, assembly	800 mm within 530 mm of the seats	ADK Diagram 3.1	Not a home rule.
Children under five	100 mm sphere must not pass; avoid horizontal rails	ADK 3.3	Guards and stair guarding.
Wheelchair space, non-dwelling	900 × 1,400 mm, 900 mm clear access, level	ADM2 4.12	Number from Table 3.
Row spacing	No source found; from the seat measured fully reclined	n/a	AV designer and seat maker.

England. Approved Document K 2013 edition and Approved Document M volume 2 (2015 edition incorporating the 2020 and 2024 amendments), read 8 November 2026. Sightline figures are our own arithmetic with example values.



Our geometry, not a standard. Example values in mm; every one is yours to set.

Side view: the rear row is raised until the sightline to the bottom of the screen clears the head in front. Our geometry with example values, in mm. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio, not a construction drawing.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

PLATFORM GEOMETRY

Seating platform [P1] rise [ ] mm above finished floor, derived on drawing [ref] from seated eye height [ ] mm for [seat model, position], screen bottom [ ] mm above finished floor, eye-to-eye row spacing [ ] mm and front-row distance to screen [ ] mm, with a clearance of [100] mm over the head in front. Sightline drawn for the centre seat and for each seat off the centre line. Row spacing measured with the seat fully reclined, leg rest raised.

STEPS AND EDGES

Steps to platform [P1] to be [ ] equal risers of not more than [220] mm and goings of not less than [220] mm, arrangement agreed with [building control body, reference] before manufacture. Guard of [900] mm at edges with a drop over [600] mm, to loads given by [structural engineer]; where children under five may use the room, no opening to pass a 100 mm sphere and no horizontal rails. Step edges to be visibly contrasted and lit.

PLATFORM CONSTRUCTION

Platform structure designed by [structural engineer] for [seating and occupancy loads]; void [filled / damped / isolated] as advised by [acoustician]; access hatches to services outside the seat footprints; cable routes and ventilation as drawing [ref]. A full-size mock-up of the front and rear seat on the platform to be approved on site before the run.

TERMS USED

Sightline

The straight line from a viewer's eye to the point on the screen that must stay visible, usually the bottom edge of the picture.

Rise (platform)

The height of a platform tier above the floor in front of it.

Clearance (C value)

The vertical distance by which a sightline clears the head of the person in front. The value is chosen by the designer; none is taken from a standard here.

Private stair

In Approved Document K Table 1.1, a stair intended for one dwelling: rise 150 to 220 mm, going 220 to 300 mm.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document K: Protection from falling, collision and impact (2013 edition): gov.uk page 3 Jan 2013, no later date. 1.3, 1.4, 1.41, 3.1 to 3.3, Diagram 3.1. Read 8 Nov 2026.
- Approved Document M volume 2: 2015 edition incorporating 2020 and 2024 amendments; 4.5, 4.10 to 4.12, Table 3. Read.
- BS EN 1991-1-1 and PD 6688-1-1: named by ADK 3.2(c) for guarding loads; Approved Document K lists [2011]; status not checked. Not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/home-cinema-seating-platforms-and-sightlines. 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.