

## Child Guards - Does Size Matter?

Child guard are installed on escalators (and moving walkways) to prevent children, on the outside of the escalator, clinging to the handrail and being carried to dangerous heights. A number of injuries (and even deaths) have occurred where the area at the side of an escalator was accessible and no guards was fitted.



Small Guard on escalator



Large Guard on moving walkway

Both guards :

- \* are constructed from clear, robust, plastic ~15 mm thick.
- \* have a section which extends to the outside of the truss and is intended to stop the child being carried past.
- \* are ~ 900 mm long to make it difficult for child to climb around the guard.
- \* have rounded edges to minimise the chance of injury.
- \* are placed so the top of the handrail, on the lower side is ~ 1500 mm above the floor.

The larger guard has a significant advantage in that it extends to ~ 110 mm above the handrail; it therefore forces the child to let go off the handrail. With the smaller guard, depending on whether the child's elbow is bent, there appears to be a chance of the child being carried past.

So go for size but check you have the code clearance between the outside of the handrail and the guard.