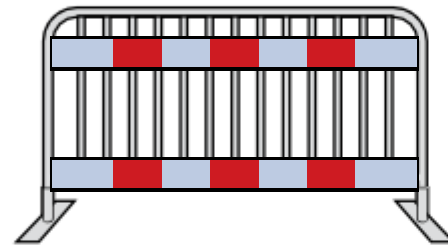


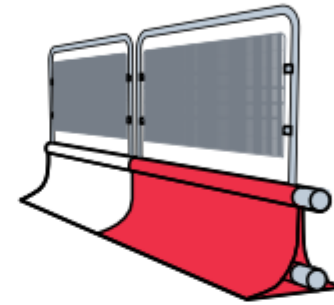
While the basic post and barrier system (see previous graphic) meets the minimum requirements, it may not always be suitable for all locations because of the large opening between barrier boards and posts. Barriers with smaller gaps and greater protection to mitigate the risk of unauthorised access (see figure to the right) should be considered, especially where high numbers of small children are expected.

More robust pedestrian barrier systems should be used where increased footfalls are predicted or known (such as busy high streets, near event venues, stadiums, etc). They should be able to withstand more physical pressure and are less likely to be dislodged.

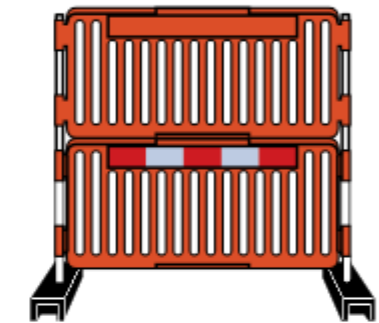
Barrier systems offering increased protection from works



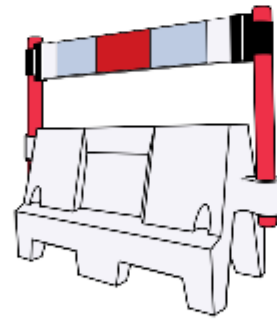
Metal pedestrian barrier



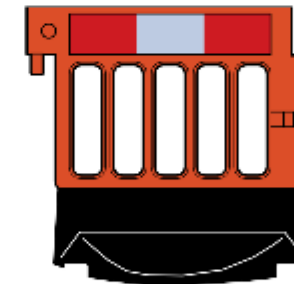
Crash-tested pedestrian barrier



High barrier system



Water-filled barrier system



Self-weighted barrier systems

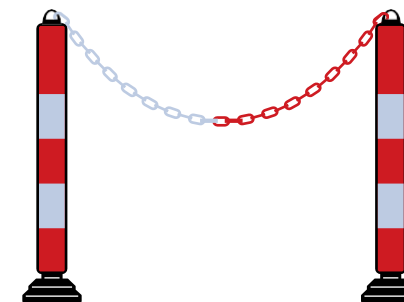
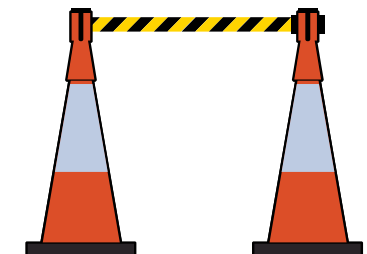
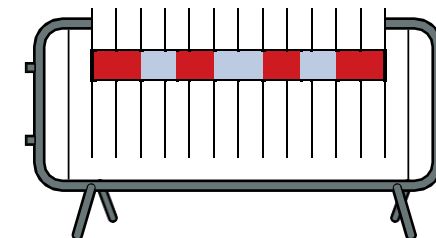
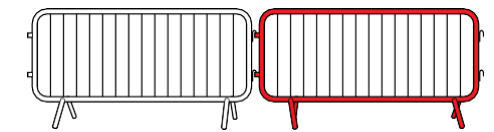
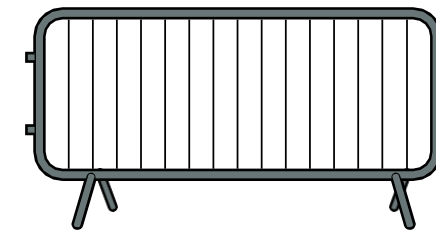
Where there is further risk of individuals climbing over the barrier and to improve the security of the site, it may be necessary to increase the height of the barrier (see examples in previous graphic on page 97), particularly where deep excavations (more than 1.5 metres deep) are required.

The non-compliant barrier systems shown on page 99 are not favoured for protecting or guarding works sites as they do not fully meet the requirements of the Safety Code or Chapter 8.

The use of retractable barriers (see page 97) is only acceptable where the barrier is fully marshalled and only used for short durations for temporary footway closures to allow works vehicles access/ egress to construction sites or similar situations. When marshals are not present, the barrier system must be locked in its closed position.

All barriers should be in a conspicuous colour and signed if required so that road users are clear about what is expected of them as they approach the barrier.

Non compliant barrier systems



5.3 Barrier stability

Barriers must be installed correctly to suit the prevailing conditions otherwise they are likely to become defective and present a hazard or obstruction to road users, with the potential to cause injury.

The first duty of the contractor is to ensure the location is safe to install the barriers and that their placement does not become an intrinsic hazard when installed. The ground must be clear of debris, stable and suitably level so that the barrier is secure to the ground. Certain barrier systems do not readily adapt to sudden changes in gradient. This can be a particular issue when running along the edge of a footway where there are dropped kerbs.

Contractors must be aware of the limitations of some barrier systems. Barriers can vary in specification and the degree of wind loading they can tolerate. Where higher winds are forecast or when barriers are in place for longer-duration works when higher winds could reasonably be expected, the barrier system should be upgraded to a weighted variety with a vertical supporting mechanism accordingly.

Traffic/pedestrian barrier products must meet standard BS 8442:2015 (Miscellaneous road traffic signs and devices. Requirements and test methods) which, among other requirements, defines categories of wind speed for barriers to withstand.

Class of wind speed / barrier	Effective wind speed
Class A: Tested to withstand wind speed to a maximum 26.3m/s (58mph) – excludes highly exposed sites	Designed to meet a wind speed likely to be experienced on any one day across the whole year. Best suited for longer-term works
Class B: Tested to withstand wind speed to a maximum 17.6 m/s (39mph)	Designed to meet a wind speed likely to be experienced on any one day in the months of May, June and July. Best suited for unattended sites at less windy times of the year
Class C: Tested to withstand wind speed to a maximum 8.7 m/s (19mph)	Best suited for short-term works where operatives are present, or for emergency situations that would not require Class A or B.

