



The National Construction Code specifies various requirements for the prevention of falls from openable windows. The intent of these requirements is to limit the risk of a person (especially a young child) falling through an openable window. These requirements are divided into two categories:

1. All windows where the potential fall is 4 m or more.
2. Windows in bedrooms of Class 1, 2, 3 and 4 buildings, and any room in Class 9b Early Childhood Centre where the potential fall is 2 m or more.

NOTE: The NSW Strata Schemes Management Regulation 2010 requires protection for windows in any room where the potential fall is over 2 m.

A window opening must be provided with protection where people could fall:

- 2 m or more from a floor through an openable window in a bedroom or any room in a class 9b early childhood centre or strata title unit in NSW,  
or
- 4 m or more from a floor through an openable window in any other room.

Generally, the options provided by the NCC that are deemed to provide protection are:

- A fixed device attached to the openable part of a window,  
or
- A fixed screen across the openable part of a window.

In either case, the device or screen must:

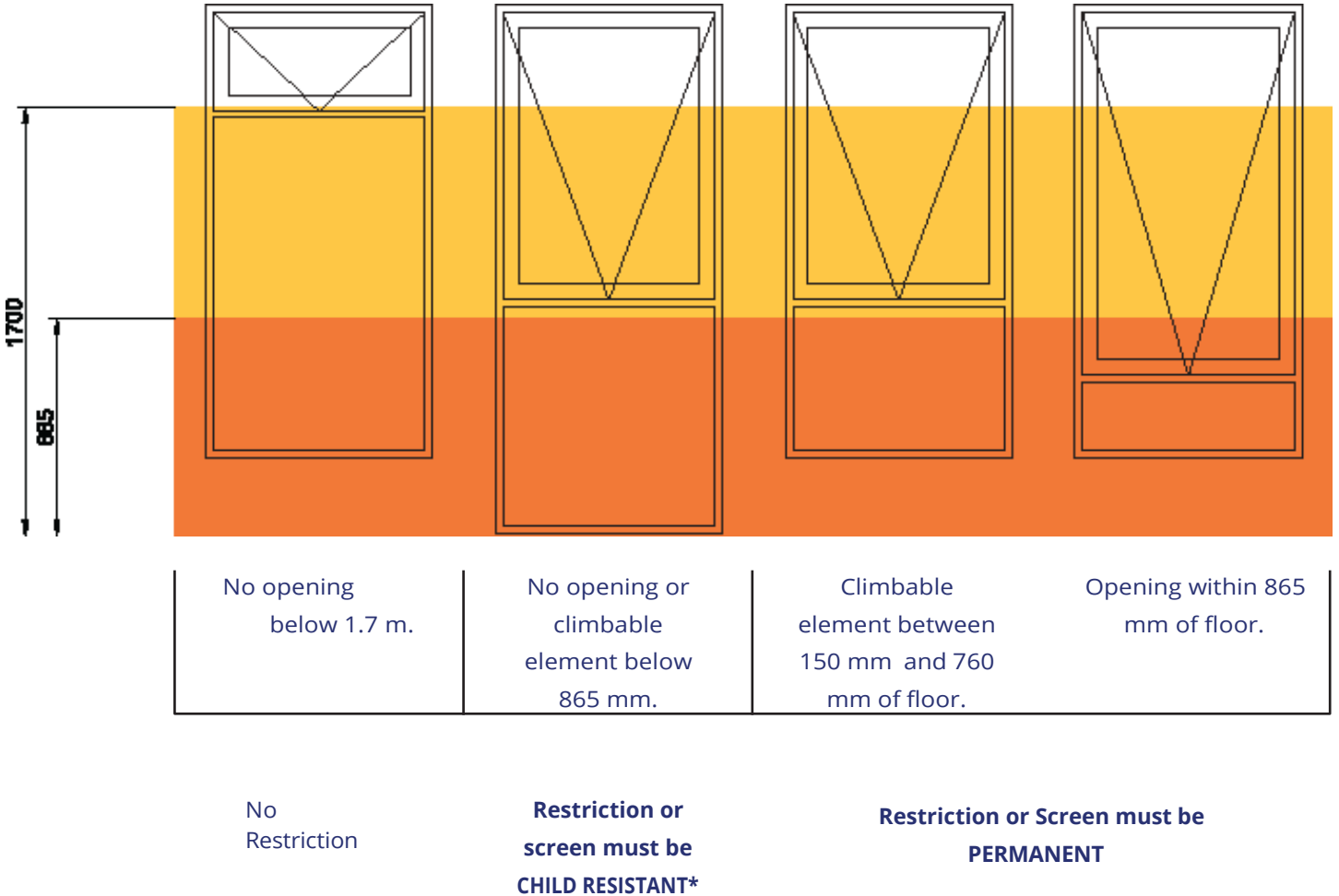
- Restrict any openings of the window or screen so that a 125 mm sphere cannot pass through,  
and
- Resist an outward horizontal action of 250 N against the window being restrained by the device or screen.

A child resistant release mechanism can be fitted so that the restriction may be removed, unlocked, or overridden provided that:

- the opening is more than 865 mm from the floor and does not have any horizontal or near horizontal elements between 150 mm and 760 mm above the floor that can facilitate climbing.  
or
- a barrier, no less than 865 mm high, is installed that does not permit a 125 mm sphere to pass through it and does not have any horizontal or near horizontal elements between 150 mm and 760 mm above the floor that facilitate climbing.

Important Note: It is the responsibility of the person fitting the device or screen to verify that it meets these requirements and provide evidence of compliance.

**Figure 1** Fall Prevention Requirements



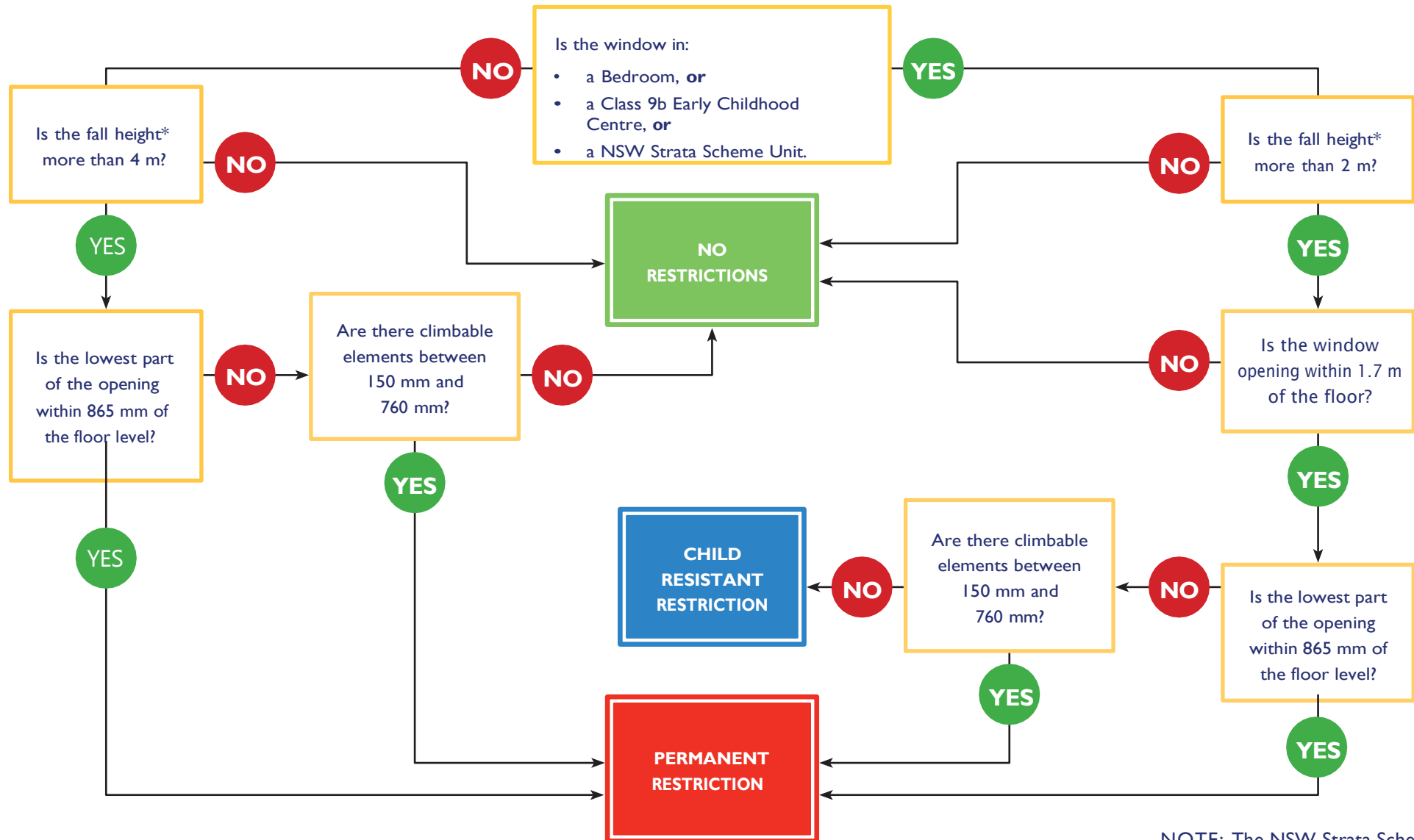
Note: Only Applicable in a bedroom or class 9b Early Childhood Centre.

**CHILD RESISTANT** means that a key, Allen key, screwdriver, spanner or the coordinated use of two hands is required to open the window beyond 125 mm.

**PERMANENT** means that a restrictor or screen is securely fixed in position (eg, a screen pop riveted to the window frame) so it cannot be unlocked, overridden, or is very difficult to remove without, for example, a drill.

Disclaimer: This key message has been developed to provide general guidance, awareness and education to AGWA members only. It should not be viewed as a definitive guide and should be read in conjunction with the requirements of the National Construction Code (Visit [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au)). While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate AGWA expressly disclaims all and any liability to any person for anything done in reliance on this publication. No responsibility is accepted by AGWA for any mistakes, errors or omissions in this publication.

Figure 1 Flowchart to Determine Fall Prevention Requirements as Prescribed by the National Construction Code



\* Measured from the floor.

NOTE: The NSW Strata Scheme does not require devices to be permanent.