

Lifts are one of the safest forms of transport, being designed to strict and comprehensive standards. However, standards change to reflect developing technology and social trends.

Owner commitments and responsibilities

From an owner/manager viewpoint, you no doubt plan your future needs and financial commitments. Where your lift installation is concerned, such plans will have regard for life expectancy and improvements to service as well as taking into account legislative requirements.

You will also be conscious of your responsibilities for control of your building, which impose a duty of care to ensure the premises are safe and free from risks to health, so far as is practicable.

Safety Checklist

This guide will serve as a pointer and checklist towards fulfilling your obligations where the safety and comfort of passengers are concerned, whilst at the same time providing a better quality of service from your installation and extending the life of the equipment. The objective is the improved safety for all those who use and work on lifts.



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Guidelines to a Lift Owner

European Standard

EN 81-80:2003

Rules for the improvement of safety of existing passenger and goods/passenger lifts

This leaflet gives guidelines of the European Standard EN 81-80 that will help you ensure you are meeting your responsibilities as a lift owner/manager.



Improved Safety

Lifts remain in service for longer periods than most products - this prompted the European Parliament's concern when considering new legislation. Parliament made certain recommendations as long ago as 1995 and these are now covered more comprehensively in a new European Standard published in 2003 and entitled 'Rules for the improvement of safety of existing passenger and goods passenger lifts' (EN 81-80).

EN 81-80

Based on established risk assessment principles, the Standard identifies where hazards can occur and, from a risk analysis viewpoint, illustrates these in high, medium and low priority with proposed corrective actions.

The Standard recognises circumstances will vary between countries and from one lift to another. It provides a comprehensive check-list of such hazards even though relatively few might require attention in the case of any individual lift installation.

Many European countries have now embodied, within their law, safety provisions reflecting certain elements of the new Standard. Traditionally, UK legislation is not prescriptive for individual products but relies upon an overall obligation towards maintaining health and safety. Nevertheless, what other countries aim to achieve through specific legislation has no less significance under UK law.

The areas of risk identified in this leaflet are selected from the standard as areas of particular concern and those that can be most significant in improving safety by implementing modern technology to rectify existing problems. There is no order of priority - this will vary according to circumstances.

Some areas of particular concern

Floor Levels: Inaccurate or inconsistent flooring can be a potential hazard to the infirm or partially sighted.

Communication: New lifts should be fitted with a 24-hour two way means of communication allowing permanent contact with a rescue service.

Safe Working Space: It has become essential for new lifts to provide a working space at the top and bottom of the lift well in order to create a safe refuge for an engineer to properly maintain the lift.

Well Lighting: It is no longer considered sufficient to use hand-held or temporary lighting when working in an enclosed lift well. On-site light should be available to the Machinery Room.

Access: A safe means of access to the lift machinery is essential either by a staircase or a safe, unobstructed and well lit alternative route. This could be crucial to the safe release of passengers from a lift car.

Car Apron: The car should be fitted with an apron.

Lift Doors: Modern electric devices to be fitted to remove the risk of passengers being struck by closing doors.

Voids: Current guidance in BS7255 strongly recommends the fitting of a balustrade on the car roof as protection against the risk of falling into the lift well.

Electrical Protection: To avoid the risk of electric shock, live terminals should be shielded and all high voltage terminals clearly marked.

Inspection Control: Strict procedures need to be in place when working on the top of a lift car, particularly when the car is to be moved, which is often necessary for maintenance/inspection. BS7255 strongly recommends providing an appropriate control.

Questions & Answers

Do I need to modernise my lift to fully meet BS EN 81-80 requirements?

Yes, you need to make reasonable adjustments to your existing lift i.e. where practical to do so, to meet the standards in EN 81-80. The following adjustments should be made by 2008.

What are some of the adjustments that I can be expected to make to the lift?

Briefly as follows...

- Make sure the floor is level or make adjustments if necessary
- Install a 24 hour 2-way communication device
- Make sure there is space available to work at the top and bottom of your lift shaft
- Install permanent high intensity lighting sufficient to illuminate the work area
- Ensure a safe means of access is available to the machine/pulley room
- Install an apron to the lift car sill
- Install a modern electronic device to remove risk of passengers being struck by closing doors
- Install a balustrade on the car roof
- The main electric switch should be capable of being locked-off
- Ensure strict safety procedures are in place when working on top of the lift car

Please contact your local Stannah Service Branch for a full list of requirements.

I am still confused over what is expected of me as a lift owner

This is perfectly understandable and one of the main reasons why Stannah is here to help. Please contact your local Stannah Service Branch (contact details on reverse) for more information and advice.

