

SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

THE APPLICATION OF THE
CONSTRUCTION (HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE) REGULATIONS 1996

PARTICULARLY TO LIFTS AND ESCALATORS

This Information Sheet is one of a series produced by the LEIA Safety Committee on topics relevant to the Lift and Escalator Industry. Whilst every effort has been taken in the production of these sheets, it must be acknowledged that they should be read in conjunction with the relevant legislation, codes of practice etc. They should not be taken as an authoritative interpretation of the law but guidance to it.

An Information Sheet giving guidance on the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996 has been circulated to members. It gives a general overview of the Regulations but did not make any attempt to be specific in its application to either lifts or escalators. This Information Sheet gives more guidance on the Regulations particular to lifts and escalators. This information may lead companies into reviewing their working procedures, equipment or their safety policy as well as the need to inform their client or the principal contractor of their obligations under these Regulations.

Several of the regulations have been revoked by the introduction of The Work at Height Regulations 2005. At the time of writing it is expected that the remaining regulations will, in time, be revoked with their requirements being covered in other Health and Safety legislation.

THE REGULATIONS

Regulation 1 - Citation and Commencement

Regulation 2 - Interpretation

For interpretations see the Safety Information Sheet on these Regulations.

Regulation 3 - Application

The Regulations apply only to those people at work who are carrying out construction work, they do not include places on a construction site used for non-construction purposes, i.e. site offices, equipment storage areas, etc.

Regulation 4 - Persons upon Whom Duties are Imposed by these Regulations

The Regulations apply to all employers, employees and the self-employed (sub-contractors). It is important to note here that the requirements of this Regulation would extend to the employee, when working under the control of another person, to report any problems which may endanger anyone. This is a situation where the principal contractor must be aware of their responsibilities.

Regulation 5 - Safe Places of Work

Covers the requirement for a safe place of work and covers **every place of work and every other place provided for use of any person at work**. The Regulations require that every place of work shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be made and kept safe, without risks to health to any person at work there. If the place of work does not comply with the Regulations steps should be taken to prevent access to that place.

Regulations 6,7 and 8

These regulations have been revoked

Regulation 9 - Stability of Structures

As most work on the construction phase takes place within the lift shaft the stability of the structure, unless it has been modified by non-competent person, should not be applicable.

Regulation 10 - Demolition or Dismantling

This is mainly applicable where refurbishment is being carried out, plans must be made for the dismantling process especially in ensuring that the immediate area below the point where dismantling is being undertaken is cleared to prevent injury to persons.

Regulation 11 - Explosives

No apparent application to lifts and escalators during construction.

Regulation 12 - Excavations

Work being undertaken during the construction of lift and escalator installation would not normally include work within excavations.

Regulation 13 - Cofferdams and Caissons

Work being undertaken during the construction of lift and escalator installation would not normally include work within excavations.

Regulation 14 - Prevention of Drowning

This would only apply if the pit were filled with water. The normal procedure to deal with this is to contact the principal contractor for the site to assist in removal of the water.

Regulation 15 - Traffic Routes

Primarily this is applicable to the construction site but there would be a need for companies to be aware of the site traffic routes prior to any delivery.

Regulation 16 - Doors and Gates

When fitting temporary landing doors and/or gates, locking devices shall be fitted and function correctly. This would equally apply to any hoarding constructed around the shaft access area.

Regulation 17 - Vehicles

Where loose materials are on a vehicle, ie guide rails, test weights etc., whilst unloading is being carried out nobody should remain on the vehicle during this operation primarily due to any unplanned movement by the materials. Cranes used for unloading equipment can include the HI-AB (lorry mounted crane).

Regulation 18 - Prevention of Risk from Fire

Measures to prevent the risk from fire should be undertaken by employees ensuring that they keep their site clear of rubbish and apply good housekeeping techniques. Any hot work ie welding may need to be included within a permit to work system. Any hazardous substance present whilst undertaking work may also require to be included within a safe system of work. The principal contractor should advise of any work that is liable to cause fires or other health and safety problems.

Regulation 19 - Emergency Routes and Exits

All sub-contractors must follow the site rules, these will be available from the principal contractor.

Regulation 20 - Emergency Procedures

As with Regulation 19 site rules must be obeyed. It should also be noted that sites must now test their evacuation procedures and that all companies must comply as instructed.

Regulation 21 - Fire Detection and Fire Fighting

Site rules must be adhered to, all employees, sub-contractors etc must have received instruction on fire fighting equipment, ie extinguishers, alarms etc.

Regulation 22 - Welfare Facilities

Persons in control of the construction site must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that welfare facilities in accordance with this Regulation and Schedule 6 of these Regulations are complied with. Employers must also ensure that the person in control of the site, principal contractor, has complied with this Regulation.

Regulation 23 - Fresh Air

Suitable and sufficient steps are to be taken so far as is reasonably practicable to ensure that every work place or approach to it has sufficient fresh or purified air so that it is safe and without risks to health. Any plant used for the purpose of supplying fresh or purified air must include a device to give visible or audible warnings of any failure.

Regulation 24 - Temperature and Weather Protection

Protection from adverse weather conditions shall be made available to employees for use during working hours.

Regulation 25 - Lighting

Lighting at every place of work and approach should so far as is reasonably practicable be by natural light. Where artificial light is provided it must be suitable and sufficient in respect of the place of work. Average illuminants lux on a construction site is 50, however where assembly and detailed work is being undertaken this level should be increased.

Regulation 26 - Good Order

Every part of a construction site shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be kept in good order and every place of work be kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness. In particular ensure that any timber or other materials with projecting nails etc. are cleared away.

Regulation 27 - Plant and Equipment

Lifting equipment and lifting tackle must be correctly stored, used and inspected. All plant must be safe without any risk to health, be of good construction, suitable and of sound material. It must also be used in a manner and maintained in a condition so that it remains safe.

Regulation 28 - Training

Any person carrying out construction site work must be competent, only those who possess such training, knowledge or experience should be involved with construction work or be under direct supervision of a person having such training.

Regulation 29 - Inspection

Inspections must be carried out by a competent person at places of work, the Information Sheet to these Regulations, Schedule 7, must be read.

Regulation 30 - Reports

Details how the report is to be laid out, there is a requirement for the report to be retained for three months following the inspection, this must ideally be held on the site where the work is being undertaken, see Schedule 8 to the regulations.

If during construction or renovation you are appointed as the principal contractor you have a responsibility to follow all Regulations relevant to the work being undertaken.

For any clarification of this Information Sheet contact your own safety adviser or the LEIA Safety and Training Manager.