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The **Lift & Escalator** Industry Association

**SAFETY Matters**

July 2013

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**Introduction**

Welcome to the July 2013 edition of Safety Matters.

Through this newsletter our aim is to inform you of health and safety issues that may have an impact on the lift and escalator industry. Safety Matters is also available for download from the LEIA member’s website. www.leia.co.uk

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**Eye Tests for Drivers**

It has been announced recently that the police will be able to revoke a driver’s licence to drive within a matter of hours if they fail a simple roadside test.

 The law is clear – you must be able to read a standard sized registration plate (number plate) at 25 yards (20.5 metres), with glasses if you need them. If you can’t the police can instruct the DVLA to revoke your licence.

You will not be allowed to drive your vehicle back to your home or work place. Once your licence is revoked you will have to prove your eyesight meets the required standard to obtain a new one, and you won’t be allowed to drive in the meantime.

**Unloading – Loads Shifting Unexpectedly**

Equipment is often delivered to site palletised to allow for mechanical offloading. The good thing about this is that the manual handling which would have been involved in the operation is avoided and the risk reduced. It can however still be a hazard as loads can shift on the pallet and fall, possibly injuring someone, particularly at the point when any banding securing the load to the pallet is cut.

 (picture HSE)

A fatal accident has recently been in the press where just this thing happened and tragically a man lost his life. Pipes were to be unloaded from a rail mounted vehicle and when the plastic bands securing them were cut they rolled sideways and fell onto the victim who suffered multiple injuries and died at the scene.

Obviously this was not our industry but instances of load shifting and moving when banding is cut have occurred. Please watch out for this and be sure you and your colleagues are in a safe position when banding is cut. Equipment can be replaced, people can’t.

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The British Heart Foundation are in the forefront of heart health promotion. They have just had their National Walking Month but that doesn’t mean the campaigning has finished.

**WALK TO WORK (W)ONCE A WEEK**

You could sign up for their Pedometer Challenge

([www.bhf.org.uk/pedometerchallenge](http://www.bhf.org.uk/pedometerchallenge)) a light hearted competition between colleagues or you could simply challenge yourself to walking to work (or a part of your route) once a week. Walking with a purpose like this improves your physical and mental health and is an easy and cheap way to slowly build up your stamina as well as your general health.

**SADDLE UP FOR SUMMER**

If walking’s not your thing, look for sponsored bike rides in your area. BHF are the UK’s favourite sponsored bike ride organiser and have many interesting rides that aren’t just on roads (or even in the UK):

London to Southampton Sat 31st August

Land’s End to John O’Groats (yes, you can) starts Mon 2nd September

London to Paris starts Saturday 7th September

Windsor to Bath off-road Saturday 14th September

Manchester to Blackpool night ride Saturday 28th September

Peak District Mountain Bike Challenge Saturday 28th September

Robin Hood Bike Ride (Nottingham) Sunday 27th October

For details and more rides go to

<http://www.bhf.org.uk/get-involved/events/bike-rides.aspx>

**THE HSE INSPECTION PROGRAMME FOR 2013**

HSE have announced that they will be undertaking a year-long campaign, starting in June 2013 to look at the Lift and Escalator Industry work processes and practices and knowledge and competence of workers. Preliminary inspections to test their proposals focussed on issues such as car top handrails, asbestos awareness, isolation processes and the availability of correct and incorrect tools (door blocking devices and loose lock beaks). HSE will also be looking at the work of sub-contractors as part of the inspection of company’s procedures. Although the initial inspection will be started by looking at the F10 CDM Notification Forms to locate works, the HSE have said that the next stage will be to visit the Head Office to locate maintenance activities.