



# Lift & Escalator Owner News

**Subject: New London Plan – evacuation lifts guidance**

## **New London Plan**

The new London Plan came into force on 2 March 2021 and sets out a framework for how London should develop over the next years.

In the new London Plan, policy D5 on inclusive design includes a minimum of one evacuation lift per core (or more subject to capacity assessments) to be provided for the safe and dignified emergency evacuation of people who require level access from the building.

## **Draft evacuation lift guidance**

To support this new London Plan policy, there is a [draft Guidance Sheet for Policy D5\(B5\) for Evacuation Lifts](#) on the GLA website. This is identified as “pre-consultation draft”; we understand that the content will be consulted on in due course.

This draft guidance includes a reference for evacuation lifts to “*BS EN 81-76 when published, BS 9991, BS 9999*”. This recognises that there is currently no BS EN 81-76 standard but that a future BS EN 81-76 could be used. In the meantime, it is clear that reference should be made to BS 9991 and BS 9999.

## **Evacuation lifts and British Standards**

Work is underway to draft EN 81-76; *Evacuation of persons with disabilities using lifts* and a draft prEN 81-76 was circulated for public comment in late 2019. **prEN 81-76 is not a standard and cannot be referenced as if it were a published standard.**

Note: DD CEN/TS 81-76:2011 is not a standard and, as detailed in its National Foreword, did not supersede the evacuation lift described in BS 9999.

Work has continued at CEN to take account of the comments submitted so any future EN 81-76 would be significantly different from the draft prEN 81-76 circulated for comment. There is no certainty of a future BS EN 81-76 as the work must go through a further public enquiry and then a formal vote. **BS EN 81-76 cannot be referenced until such a standard is published as a designated standard.**

Any future BS EN 81-76 would define the requirements for an evacuation lift. The incorporation of evacuation lifts into buildings depends on many elements of building design, evacuation strategy, building management etc. which are included in standards such as BS 9991 (fire safety of residential buildings), BS 9999 (fire safety of buildings), and guidance to Building Regulations.

Building Regulations Approved Document B and British Standards reference the evacuation lift in BS 9999:2017, Annex G which defines an evacuation lift as a “*lift used as part of the evacuation sequence for persons with disability and persons requiring assistance, which has appropriate structural, electrical and fire protection and is capable of being taken under control by a trained and authorized person*”.

**Until these standards and guidance change, the specification of evacuation lifts should continue to follow the recommendations in BS 9991 and BS 9999.**