



LEIA Safety Information Sheet

Fitting of Sump Pumps in Lift Pits

Prepared by the LEIA Safety and Environment Committee

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SAFETY INFORMATION SHEET

FITTING OF SUMP PUMPS IN LIFT PITS

PREAMBLE

This Information Sheet is one of a series produced by the LEIA Safety and Environment 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.

INTRODUCTION

Ingress of water into lift pits is highly undesirable and can result in damage and deterioration of equipment, rendering the equipment unserviceable as well as creating dangers and difficulties for persons working on the lift.

FITTING OF SUMP PUMPS

Water ingress can be a difficult problem to resolve and although not caused by the lift or the lift equipment but by deficiencies in the building and /or the surrounding environment, LEIA members may be asked by the lift owner to advise on a possible solution.

A pump may appear a quick and easy solution but this in itself comes with its own problems. The following issues need to be considered by the lift owner:

- Forming a sump in the pit floor might affect the structural integrity and professional advice should be sought from an architect, structural engineer or similar.
- Isolation of the lift will be required to provide safe access during maintenance of the pump.
- Where a pump is fitted the pumped water is likely to be contaminated and as such cannot be allowed to enter the drains without special arrangements.

For more information please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>

(Specific guidance for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is available via links on the website above)