



# Lift & Escalator Owner News

**Subject: Evacuation lifts standards**

## Summary

An evacuation lift, provided with protection by the building design and to be taken under the control of building management and used for the evacuation of disabled people, is described in BS 9999:2017. Work is underway to look at the specification and operation of evacuation lifts; however this work is at the draft stage. Until revised standards are published, **BS 9999:2017 remains the only description of an evacuation lift in British Standards.**

## London Plan (from March 2021)

London Plan policy D5 on inclusive design requires at least 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. The *pre-consultation draft [Evacuation Lifts guidance](#)* (updated 19 March 2021) includes a reference for evacuation lifts to meet “*BS EN 81-76 when published, BS 9991, BS 9999*”. This recognises that there is no BS EN 81-76 standard and that the current BS 9991/BS 9999 standards should be followed.

## Evacuation lifts and British Standards

A draft prEN 81-76; *Evacuation of persons with disabilities using lifts* was circulated for public comment in late 2019. **Specifiers and lift providers are advised that 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. This remains the case.

The content of any future published EN 81-76 is likely to differ significantly from the draft prEN 81-76; its acceptance as a British Standard is not certain. **Specifiers and lift providers are advised not to make reference to “BS EN 81-76”** until such a standard is published and referenced from standards such as BS 9991, BS 9999 and building regulation guidance.

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 9991:2015; *Fire safety in the design, management and use of residential buildings – Code of practice*, BS 9999:2017; *Fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings – Code of practice*, and guidance to Building Regulations such as AD B in England. These all reference the description of an evacuation lift in BS 9999:2017, Annex G.

BS 9991 is under revision and a draft for public comment (DPC) was circulated earlier in 2021. This draft included suggested recommendations for evacuation lifts. The final published BS 9991 is likely to differ significantly from the DPC for BS 9991 and the acceptance of the evacuation lift elements in it is not certain. **Specifiers and lift providers are advised not to make reference to “draft BS 9991” or DPC BS 9991”.**

**Until these standards and guidance change, the specification of evacuation lifts should continue to follow the recommendations in the current BS 9991:2015 or BS 9999:2017.**