



Lift & Escalator Industry Association

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12 November 2025

LEIA warning notice - lifting platforms fitted with latching/automatic controls

On 19 August, we published a safety information notice on behalf of Phoenix Lifting Systems for lifting platforms with one-touch controls - also known as latching or automatic controls. The notice can be [found here](#). **We are publishing this further warning notice in case lifting platforms provided by other manufacturers are found which have one-touch/latching platform controls, that allow the platform to travel automatically between levels without the need of constant pressure on a floor button.**

Maintainers and those carrying out inspections or thorough examination encountering lifting platforms with one-touch/latching platform controls are advised to make the owner of the lifting platform aware of the following:

- the dangers of such platform controls and existence of this safety notice
- the feasibility of converting the platform controls to “constant pressure/hold to run” type platform controls.

Owners of lifting platforms with one-touch/latching controls are advised to:

- seek the assistance of their lifting platform maintenance provider and if feasible (see above),
- have their lifting platform controls converted to constant pressure/hold to run
- where it is not feasible to convert lifting platform controls to the constant pressure/hold to run type, or it is required to retain one-touch/latching platform control, ensure that the usage of the lifting platform is based on risk assessment and that appropriate control measures are taken.

NOTE: home lifts installed in accordance BS 5900:2012 are not covered in this warning notice.

Further details

In the years before The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 and the harmonised/designated standard BS EN 81-41:2010 took effect, lifting platforms might have been installed with latching/automatic platform controls. BS EN 81-41 requires that platform controls are of the “hold to run” type, and not automatic.

The dangers of one-touch/latching platform controls were tragically highlighted by the death of Jacqueline Langworthy and the subsequent Prevention of Future Deaths Report from the Coventry Coroner.

It might be that one-touch/latching platform controls have been provided for users who might not be able to use hold to run controls for the time needed to move between floors. In all

cases where the lifting platform owner retains latching platform controls, we advise the owner to carry out a risk assessment and to ensure that the lifting platform is used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The owner's risk assessment will need to take account of the specific lifting platform installation, along with the necessary instructions in how they should be used, taking into account the design and operational characteristics of the lifting platform.

Background – regulations and standards

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 had an Essential Health and Safety Requirement (EHSR) 6.2 which included: *"The control devices for these movements must be of the hold-to-run type except where the carrier itself is completely enclosed."*

Lifting platforms do not have carriers (such as lift cars) which are completely enclosed. Where any lifting platforms are found which have one-touch/latching platform controls, the owner should be advised to follow the guidance above. This would usually be to have the platform controls modified to make them constant pressure/hold to run. For most lifting platform designs, this is understood to not be a complex change. However, the feasibility of making such a change needs to be established by someone such as the lifting platform maintenance provider who might need to consult with the original equipment manufacturer.

There are lifting appliances that are completely enclosed by a floor, ceiling and walls except for car entrance protected by full height light curtain devices. Where these full height light curtains conform to the requirements for safety devices designed to detect the presence of persons as Item 2, Part 5 of the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations (Annex V of the Machinery Directive), the use of a such safety devices is understood to address the risk of the use of latching controls. These lifting appliances are not covered by this warning notice.

Use of lifting platforms

The owner should ensure that correct use of a lifting platform in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This will typically exclude taking goods or pieces of equipment into the lifting platform.

Experience has shown that lifting platforms might be subject to other forms of misuse. HSE published a warning notice in 2012:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/liftingplatforms.htm> and [LEIA published a notice in 2013 on the dangers of over-riding door locking devices.](#)

HSE published a warning notice in 2019 on lifting platforms and the risk of falls from height: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/platform-lifts.htm> and in 2021 LEIA published a [LEIA warning notice on lifting platform door locks.](#)



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