



Welcome to your industry newsletter

From Terry Potter, Managing Director, LEIA



Welcome to the first edition of the LEIA newsletter, bringing you news and views from the Association and the industry.

This bi-monthly newsletter will feature updates on the important issues facing our sector, as well as news from LIFTEX 2016 which is fast approaching, and sector-specific focus pieces. Team members and guest authors will all contribute to what we hope will become a valuable resource for you in your everyday business.

It has been a busy year for LEIA with involvement in a number of projects. Last month we announced two new apprentice standards from The Lift & Escalator Trailblazer Group, which we helped set up in the summer. Back in June we published the LEIA Lift Safety Recommendations leaflet, and we continue to offer our LEIA Distance Learning Course. All this, as well as seminars and forums by industry leading experts.

Our focus remains on continuing to support our members by providing advice and information on all aspects of the industry. Thank you for your ongoing support.

New standard for firefighters' lifts

The new British Standard for firefighters' lifts, revised for the first time since its original publication in 2003, contains some significant changes. Nick Mellor, Technical Director at LEIA, highlights the key revisions.

The new standard is essential reading for anyone interested in designing buildings incorporating firefighters' lifts, the use of these lifts, the thorough examination of firefighters' lifts, or those involved in design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of such lifts.

The update includes a foreword which gives useful guidance on how the new standard relates to BS EN 81-72:2003 and the new lift standards as a whole. It also contains guidance on where the usual practice in the UK has implications for the aspects of BS EN 81-72:2015 which are subject to negotiation between clients and lift contractors.



So what are the key changes?

- Revision of the elements dealing with building design and the inclusion of a new informative annex on the building interface. One of the most important implications for building design is the maximum distance between landing sills of 7 m.
- There is no longer a requirement for a firefighters' lift to serve every floor of the building. The floors to be served are assumed to be determined as part of the design of the building for fire.
- New requirements for protection of electrical equipment against water; in the lift well and the roof and walls of the lift car.
- New measures to prevent water ingress into the lift well which reflect UK practice (Annex L of BS 9999) which are strongly preferred to measures to control the level of water in the lift pit alone.
- Revision of clauses dealing with the rescue of trapped firefighters. The use of fixed ladders and rope ladders in the lift well has been removed.
- New requirements for dual entry lift cars where not all the safe areas to be used in firefighting operations are on the same side i.e. more than one car door could be used during firefighting operations.
- Revision of requirements for the control system including new requirements for when a firefighter's key switch is used in the lift car (subject to negotiation). Revised requirements, in phase 2, for car doors to close under constant pressure from door close or car call buttons and for opening.
- Inclusion of a new informative annex on maintenance requirements. This will be of interest as the UK fire and rescue services have been focused on ensuring that firefighters' lifts are available for use when required by the fire and rescue services.

The new BS EN 81-72:2015 is intended to "partner" BS EN 81-20 and will be able to be used with that standard. The relationship between BS EN 81-72:2003 and BS EN 81-1 and BS EN 81-2 is an area where the national foreword to the new standard has some very useful guidance.

There is a transition period so that, although BS EN 81-20:2014 has been available since August 2014, BS EN 81-1 and BS EN 81-2 can still be used and will not be withdrawn until 31 August 2017. BS EN 81-72:2003 has the same date of withdrawal and "partners" these standards. This period is needed because of the length of time between the planning and construction of buildings into which lifts are installed and because of the time taken for the many changes in the new standards to be implemented by manufacturers.

The LIFTEX 2016 seminar programme will also address these updates and other topical issues with the use of lifts in the event of fire. Look out for speaker announcements soon.

LIFTEX 2016: three years in the making

25 - 26 May 2016, ExCeL, London



Free registration is now open for LIFTEX 2016, which is already shaping up to be bigger than the 2013 event with seven months still left to go. Exhibition stand sales have broken all records and it's not surprising when 85% of visitors to LIFTEX 2013 attended with intentions to purchase. It is not too late to join LIFTEX as an exhibitor. If you would like to join your event do contact Stephen Ingram on T: 01963 44 1234 or e-mail him stephen.ingram@liftex2016.com.



To help visitors find what they are looking for, LIFTEX 2016 covers the following categories - which are well represented within the show:

- Communication systems
- Control & drive systems
- Disabled access lifts
- Escalators
- Goods & vehicle lifts
- Hydraulic power units & components
- Lift maintenance
- MRL lifts
- Passenger lifts
- Product solutions for modernisation

The show will also feature a free seminar programme covering a wide range of industry specific topics set to challenge and inform. Specialised topic streams, and an impressive line-up of expert speakers, will share insights and essential information for optimising current infrastructure and planning for future requirements. Sessions are devised in consultation with key industry authorities and stakeholders; designed to enhance existing knowledge and give clear insight into the future.

If you haven't already registered, sign up today at www.liftex2016.com

Focus on...



Accessibility

With 70% of public buildings still inaccessible, Craig Pilkington from LEIA's Personal Lift Group examines this important issue.

Our business is a very different one to the passenger lift side of the industry. Contracts are generally not on the same scale, and PLG companies are rarely involved in brand new projects. It's usually more about improving accessibility within existing buildings.

This means more projects per year, but with smaller values than the major lift companies. Projects range from people's homes to public buildings such as restaurants, banks, department stores and theatres. This doesn't come without its challenges however, particularly when making older buildings accessible without compromising the design and style of the original building fabric. Despite this, smaller projects mean that the sector was largely unaffected by the recession and downturn in major projects.

What's more, the British market is more mature than others in Europe – and one which still has growth potential. Our long established legislation on disability discrimination paves the way, whilst other countries like Norway and France only introduced such legislation within the last 10 years.

There's no time for complacency though, as there is still a lot of work to be done. Despite the fact the DDA had been in place for 20 years (now replaced by the Equality Act), around 70% of public buildings remain inaccessible to the disabled. These include churches, police stations and courtrooms. Whilst a number of major businesses respond well to these requirements, there are others who still do not. Demand for the Disabled Facilities Grant continues to far outstrip funding despite the fact that it has increased year on year (currently £220m).

All of this strengthens the PLG's commitment to maintain active and constructive relationships with local authorities, occupational therapists and others involved in the sector to improve accessibility in all areas. We would urge more businesses to get involved – the more people become members, quite simply, the stronger it makes us.