

The Chiltern Lift Company *Limited*

ALL TYPES OF LIFT INSTALLATIONS, SERVICING AND REPAIRS

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Regulations Concerning Passenger Lift and Service Lift Equipment

Lift Regulations

European Parliament and Council Directive 95/16/EC of 29 June 1995 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to lifts (the "Lifts Directive" has been implemented in the UK with effect from 1 July 1997 by way of the Lifts Regulations 1997.

Installers of lifts and manufacturers of safety components ("suppliers") had the option of complying with the provisions of the Lifts Regulations or with existing national regulations in force on 29 June 1995, during a transitional period up to 30 June 1999.

From 1 July 1999, all suppliers have to comply with the Lifts Regulations. All lifts and safety components within the scope of the Lifts Regulations which are placed on the market and put into service in the United Kingdom, including imports, will have to:

- be safe (or in the case of a safety component enable the lift in which it is installed to be safe);
- meet the relevant essential health and safety requirements in their design, construction and installation;
- satisfy the appropriate conformity assessment procedures set out in the Lifts Regulations;
- carry CE marking;
- be accompanied by an EC declaration of conformity;

There are also duties concerning:

- liaison between installers of lifts and those responsible for work on the building or construction;
- keeping lift wells free of extraneous piping, wiring or fittings;
- keeping and supplying relevant information to those who are entitled to it;

From 1 July 1999, the provisions of the Lifts Directive apply in all Member States of the European Community and, in the remainder of the EEA (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein)

The Chiltern Lift Company offers advice on the legislation and standards that apply to new lifts and escalators such as the Disability Discrimination Act, The Lifts Regulations, and British Standards etc.

LOLER Regulations

The **Lifting Operations Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998** (LOLER) are set of regulations created under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 which came into force in Great Britain on 5 November 1998 and replaced a number of other pieces of legislation which covered the use of lifting equipment. The purpose of the regulations was to reduce the risk of injury from lifting equipment used at work.

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Areas covered in the regulations include the requirement for lifting equipment to be strong and stable enough for safe use and to be marked to indicate safe working loads; ensuring that any equipment is positioned and installed so as to minimise risks; that the equipment is used safely ensuring that work is planned, organised and performed by a competent person; that equipment is subject to ongoing thorough examination and where appropriate, inspection by competent people.

Lifting Equipment

The regulations define lifting equipment as work equipment for lifting or lowering loads and includes its attachments used for anchoring, fixing or supporting it. The regulations involve anything which involves the lifting of goods or people at work. Equipment covered would include lifts, cranes, ropes, slings, hooks, shackles, eyebolts, rope and pulley systems and forklift trucks. The regulations apply to all workplaces and all the provisions of the 'Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998' also apply to lifting equipment.

Safe Working Load

A safe working load (SWL) should, according to the regulations be marked onto lifting equipment with the relevant SWL being dependant on the configuration of the equipment, accessories for lifting such as eye bolts, lifting magnets and lifting beams should also be marked. The load itself would be based on the maximum load that the equipment can lift safely. Lifting equipment that is designed for lifting people must also be appropriately and clearly marked.

Passenger Lifts

The regulations stated that all lifts provided for use with work activities should be thoroughly examined by a 'competent person' at regular intervals. Owners or people responsible for the safe operation of a lift at work are known as 'dutyholders' and have a responsibility to ensure that the lift has been thoroughly examined and is safe to use. Lifts when in use should be thoroughly examined every six months if, at any time, the lift has been used to carry people. Lifts used to only carry loads should be examined every 12 months. Any substantial or significant changes should have been made to the equipment then this would also require an examination as would any change in operating condition which is likely to effect the integrity of the equipment.

If you require further information regarding Lift Regulations and Legislation please contact our expert staff on 01628 527414.