

The Chiltern Lift Company *Limited*

ALL TYPES OF LIFT INSTALLATIONS, SERVICING AND REPAIRS

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SAFed Supplementary Testing

What are SAFed Supplementary Tests for In-Service Lifts?

SAFed LG1 supplementary tests for in-service lifts replaced LG1 examinations in February 2006. The tests are defined as the:

'appropriate tests and/or examinations called for by the competent person where concerns regarding the condition of equipment arise from thorough examination.'

'The competent person should decide whether a test is necessary. The nature of the test method will be a matter for the competent person: they should determine the most appropriate method for carrying it out.'

The tests apply to all ages of lifts.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of supplementary tests is to support the thorough examination in order to establish the equipment's suitability for continued use.

The tests may be conducted by a competent person, when regular thorough examinations are carried out but would normally be conducted by a lift servicing company as most of the tests are beyond the scope of a thorough examination and the tests may require some dismantling or access to hidden parts.

What is a "thorough examination"?

A thorough examination is a systematic and detailed examination of the lift and all its associated equipment by a competent person. Its aim is to detect any defects which are, or might become, dangerous, and for the competent person to report them to the dutyholder and, if appropriate, the enforcing authority (the Health and Safety Executive or local authority) so that appropriate remedial action can be taken.

To determine the extent of the thorough examination, the competent person will assess the risks, considering factors such as where the lift will be used, frequency of use, age and condition, the weight of loads to be lifted, etc.

A thorough examination may include some testing, if the competent person considers it to be necessary. The competent person will normally determine what tests are required, taking account of the relevant guidance and standards and dutyholders are recommended to insist on this approach.

Thorough examination **should not be confused with preventive maintenance**, although they have some elements in common. Preventive maintenance usually involves replacing worn or damaged parts, topping up fluid levels and making routine adjustments to ensure risks are avoided. Preventative maintenance will usually be carried out by a designated lift contractor, such as Chiltern Lifts. Thorough examinations under LOLER Regulations are usually carried out at statutory intervals by you engineering insurance inspector. The thorough examination will be documented and may call for additional supplementary testing to be carried out.

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Thorough examination will include examination and/or inspection of the following:

- landing and car doors and their interlocks;
- worm and other gearing;
- main drive system components;
- governors;
- safety gear;
- suspension ropes or chains
- overload detection devices;
- electrical devices (including earthing, earth bonding, safety devices, selection of fuses, etc);
- braking systems (including buffers and overspeed devices);
- hydraulics.

This list is not exhaustive. More detailed guidance can be found in the Safety Assessment Federation's (SAFed) Lift guidelines (see Further information).

Role of the dutyholder

As the dutyholder you are legally responsible for ensuring that the lift is safe to use and that it is thoroughly examined. These responsibilities include:

- maintaining the lift so that it is safe to use;
- selecting and instructing the competent person;
- ensuring that the lift is examined at statutory intervals (every 6 or 12 months) or in accordance with an examination scheme drawn up by a competent person;
- keeping the competent person informed of any changes in the lift operating conditions which may affect the risk assessment;
- making relevant documentation available to the competent person, eg manufacturer's instructions and maintenance records;
- acting promptly to remedy any defects;
- ensuring that all documentation complies with the Regulations; and
- record keeping.

Supplementary Testing of In Service Lifts

The revised guidelines for the supplementary testing of in-service lifts has been formulated by the Review Committee comprising of major lift owners, users, lift manufacturerers, lift maintenance companies, inspection bodies and chaired by the Health & Safety Executive

The new guidance supersedes the existing document "Lift Guidelines (LG 1): Guidelines on the thorough examinations and testing of lifts, Volumes 1 and 2" published by SAFed in December 1998, which is now withdrawn.

Under the Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998, Regulation 2(1) lifts have to receive a thorough examination by a competent person, every 6 months for passenger carrying lifts and annually for all other types of lifts.

What this means is that no annual testing / inspection protocol as LG1 is now required. Supplementary testing will only be required when called for by the Competent Person at the time of their thorough examination. These supplementary tests are otherwise known as "SAFed Supplementary Tests".

Who is a Competent Person

- Lift Insurance Inspectors
- Client appointed persons (The person who is responsible for ensuring compliance to LOLER 1998 & HASAWA 1974 for that client) usually in larger organisations.
- Lift Maintenance Engineer (supplementary tests may be called for where they deem a specific piece of a lifts apparatus to be requiring further in depth examination).

The SAFed supplementary test services we offer

We offer reasonably priced SAFed supplementary tests for all electric and hydraulic lift installations. Please contact us for further information and prices.

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) introduced requirements for the safe provision and use of lifting equipment. Regulation 9 of LOLER requires that all lifts provided for use in work activities are thoroughly examined by a competent person at regular intervals. This applies to lifts and hoists used to lift people or loads.

If you are a lift owner or someone responsible for the safe operation of a lift used at work, such as a facilities manager or supervisor, you are a 'dutyholder' under LOLER. This means that you have a legal responsibility to ensure that the lift is thoroughly examined and that it is safe to use.