



Operation & Implementation

By Richard Morgan of SAFed

It is now just over 12 months since the Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed) Guidelines "Thorough examination and testing of lifts", referred to as LG1, superseded HSE Guidance Note (GN) PM7. Whenever new Guidance is introduced it inevitably takes a finite period of time for people to get to know their way around it and to understand the ways of complying with its various recommendations. LG1 is no different, the recommended examinations and tests are greater in number and more comprehensive than those in PM7, do indeed take a while to get to grips with but by now should be pretty well understood by those within the lift maintenance and inspection industries.

The purpose of this article is to answer a number of the more important questions on the application and implementation of LG1 that have been raised since its introduction. For clarity, the remainder of this article will be set out in the form of questions and answers.

Question

Is it a statutory requirement for lifts¹ to be subjected to the tests and examinations detailed in LG1?

Answer

No.

Lifts do however have to be thoroughly examined by competent persons under regulation 9 of The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1989 (LOLER). What LG1 does do is detail a number of recommended examinations and tests, along with their associated periodicity's, which are designed to supplement and support where appropriate the periodic thorough examination undertaken by a competent person under LOLER regulation 9,

It is important to understand that the examinations and tests detailed in LG1 do not by themselves cover everything that would normally be undertaken in the course of a LOLER regulation 9 periodic thorough examination.

Question

What status does LG1 have?

Answer

Although published by SAFed, LG1 was produced by an industry Working Group consisting of specialists from the lift and independent inspection industries, personnel from lift owner groups, the HSE, and a representative from the Local Authority/HSE Liaison Committee. The Working Group was Chaired by the HSE and the Guidelines, which are fully supported by the HSE, hold similar status to that of the former HSE GN PM7.

Question

Who should decide which, if any, of the LG1 examinations and tests are required and when?

Answer

The need for any supplementary examinations and tests to be undertaken will invariably be decided by the competent person undertaking the LOLER regulation 9 statutory thorough examination. The competent person should decide what particular examinations and tests are required, using as a basis the results of a risk assessment of the lift. Any such supplementary examinations and tests deemed necessary will normally be, but dependant upon particular situations may be different from, those recommended in LG1. The person that undertakes LG1 examinations and tests or any other particular examination or test called for by the competent person, may not be the competent person that undertakes the LOLER regulation 9 statutory thorough examination. Any person that does undertake LG1 examinations and tests or any other examinations and tests should, however, be competent for that purpose.

¹ Applies only to lifts supplied for the use of workers.

Discerning lift owners may on the other hand decide

that they wish to have all the examinations and tests as detailed in LG1 undertaken at the intervals recommended in the Guidance. If they do, and all the LG1 examinations and tests have been satisfactorily undertaken by persons competent to do so and have been recorded as recommended by LG1, it is unlikely, although not guaranteed, that the competent person will need to ask for anymore detailed examinations or testing to enable them to complete their LOLER regulation 9 periodic thorough examination.

Question

Does every LG1 recommended examination and test for a particular certificate have to be satisfactorily completed and recorded for that certificate to be valid?

Answer

No.

As stated in the answer to the above question, there may be occasions when either none or only a limited number of the recommended LG1 examinations and tests are called for by the competent person to enable them to complete their LOLER regulation 9 periodic thorough examination. The consequence of this is that in some circumstances only one or a selected number of examinations and tests may be recorded on individual LG1 certificates of examination and test. Under these circumstances the individual LG1 certificate(s) are perfectly valid.

Copies of the SAFed Guidelines on the Thorough Examination and testing of lifts may be obtained from:

The Safety Assessment Federation

60, Gainsford Street

London

SE1 2NY

Tel 020 7403 0987

fax: 020 7403 0137

Email: info@safed.co.uk

Normal Price of £100 (inclusive of postage and packing) - Special Elevation offer price until end of March 2000, £50 (inclusive of postage and packing).