

## Assistance with CDM

Lift engineering companies and machinery installers have always been subject to rigorous inspection of their products by insurers, specialised design engineers, health and safety ergonomic professionals and the HSE because of the high risk nature of the public use and concurrent work and access issues. The need for formal inspection or commissioning of lift installations has led to the development of a safety ethos and solid operator training tradition that still prevades throughout the industry.

But, the area that is currently causing most concern to the lift engineering industry is CDM. The information that planning supervisors and principal contractors are asking for as a result of the CDM regulations does not seem very relevant with regards to ensuring a safe system of work. Indeed at times the CDM's increase the possibility for dispute between contractors, clients and specifiers. Many managers in the lift related disciplines are totally baffled as to where the cutoff point lies within the "policy" or "safety management systems". How a lift installer can integrate lift-specific health and safety assessments successfully and contribute positively to a principal contractors safety plan or mutually improve a health and safety file is not obvious to some engineer designers or commercial estimators. A further complication for lift installers is that they can undertake turnkey projects for non-technical clients who may not realise their duty to appoint a planning supervisor. Nevertheless, clients must be informed by the designer that the appointment of a planning supervisor is a legal requirement under the regulations.

Professional H&S Consultants of Thornton Heath in Surrey is lending a helping hand in this arena. The company has

just finalised Construction Phase health and safety plans under the aegis of the CDM requirements for Budget Lifts work for the London School of Economics in Roseberry Avenue and at the Aldwych in London. Budget Lifts is established in South East London in the Rotherhithe New Road.

Brian Edmondson of Professional H&S Consultants has also just completed a Health & Safety policy including an audit and risk assessment for an eminent company in the lift field, Lifteknik Limited of Chester.