

# Safe Working on Lifts

by  
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**The health and safety executive asked BSI to produce a code of practice for the safe working on lifts and the first document was completed in 1989.**

**A new edition of the standard, BS 7255, is now available. Dr. Gina Barney, member of the drafting panel responsible for the revision, describes its application and content.**

Mr J M Lickley, member of the first drafting panel, said of the 1989 code: "The work of producing a code of practice for the safe working on lifts presented a challenge to the drafting committee, which hitherto has been mostly concerned with technical and design matters. It was essential to consider site working procedures and the like, matters which had previously been considered more appropriate for direct discussion between employers and unions in the area of wage bargaining.

"However, after some discussion it proved possible to establish limits within which all parties could work constructively without prejudicing bargaining procedures in the field of industrial relations."

Attitudes to safety have changed over the last decade! Workers are now more aware of hazards and therefore take more care, and employers and owners now positively strive to provide ever-safer workplaces.

The drafting panel for the 1989 Code of Practice was large and included all industry views. When the drafting panel for the new Code was being established, all participants in the drafting of the old Code were invited, as were other significant bodies and individuals. The resulting group was representative of the current industry, and a drafting panel was set up covering a wide range of interests and views. The challenge this time was to modernise the old Code to meet many important changes that have occurred, notably:

The Lifts Regulations: 1997

EN 81-1 and -2: 1998 Harmonised European Standard

LOLER Regulations: 1998

PUWER Regulations: 1998

CDM: 1994

Personal Protection Equipment Regulations: 1992

Workplace Regulations: 1992

The drafting panel had a head start as the Lift and

Escalator Industry Association produced a first draft. Nevertheless, it took 14 sessions to bring the new Code to fruition.

The new Code does not analyse the risks under "provisions and procedures" as was necessary in the old Code, but it applies the principles of the methodology of risk assessment (hazard identification, risk analysis, risk reduction and control, documentation). This is now the rationale for developing all European product standards for machinery.

The most significant change is the division of safety management between the owner's responsibilities and the industry's responsibilities. It is thus now possible to focus directly on the responsibilities of both parties when using the new Code.

As with the old Code, training is still considered a crucial element, reinforced by the need for work to be carried out by authorised persons, using safe systems of work.

Unlike the old Code, which was aimed at satisfying the standards for lifts at the time, the new Code covers lifts of any age, from those complying with the early BS 2655 to the modern day EN 81: 1998. It is hoped that when owners consider modernisation of old lifts, they take the opportunity to incorporate the recommendations of the new Code.

The new Code is recommended for those having duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act: 1974 and other relevant health and safety legislation.

BS 7255: 2001 is published in standard A4 format and as an A6 pocketbook. Please refer to our Grapevine section page 14 for a special discount offer applicable to Elevation readers. □

