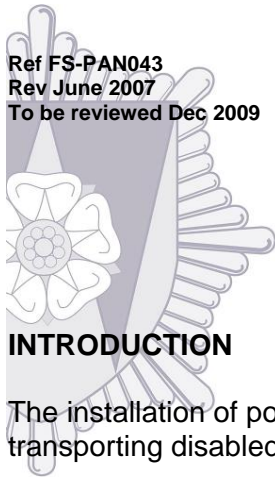


Advice Leaflet 43

Stair-lifts & Evacuation Procedures

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INTRODUCTION

The installation of powered stair-lifts in domestic premises can be an effective method of transporting disabled persons between floors.

Stair-lifts should only be installed in public and commercial buildings (including premises giving residential care) where it is not reasonably practical to incorporate either:

1. A passenger lift in accordance with BS 5655 or,
2. A powered lifting platform in accordance with BS 6440 (where travel distance is not greater than 1.98m).

OTHER AUTHORITIES YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT

The fire authority enforces the duties and provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in almost all premises. Before purchasing or installing a stair-lift, the building owner/manager, the architect or building surveyor, or other professional agent acting on behalf of the building owner or manager should consult with:

1. The Environmental Health Department of the appropriate local authority to ensure that the proposal complies with relevant health and safety requirements.
2. The Building Control Department of the appropriate local authority to ensure that the proposal complies with relevant health and safety requirements.
3. The registration unit of the appropriate local authority Social Services department.
4. The Fire Authority.

GENERAL ADVICE AND GUIDELINES

A stair-lift should not be installed in a single stairway building if it causes an unacceptable restriction in width to the only available route of escape.

The stairway width required for means of escape should be maintained beyond the incursion into the stairway width of any fixed part of the stair-lift such as the carriage rail.

The effect of other parts of the installation on the width of the escape routes should also be considered eg the power unit and the stair-lift itself when in the closed position.

In premises where there is access to two or more stairways, it should be possible to bypass the stairway containing a stair-lift without having to enter that stairway.

Satisfactory arrangements should be made to prevent an occupant from falling from the stair-lift when it is in use.

The stair-lift should be thoroughly serviced by a competent person within six months of commissioning and thereafter at intervals not exceeding twelve months.

Stair-lifts should not be used as a means of escape.

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The use of a stair-lift indicates that there may be a need for assisted evacuation from upper floor levels. When there is a fire alarm, part of the fire routine should be to check the stair-lift and assist the passenger to a place of safety.

The complete installation should comply in all aspects with British Standard 5776:1996.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Number	Title
BS 5655:	Lifts and service lifts
BS 5776: 1996:	Specification for powered stair-lifts.
BS 5588: 1988:	Part 8: Fire Precautions in the design and construction of buildings - Code of Practice for means of escape for disabled people.
BS 6440:	Code of practice for powered stair-lifting platforms for use by disabled persons

These publications can be obtained from the following address:

British Standards Institution (Sales)
389 Chiswick High Road
London
W4 4AL

Tel: 0208 996 7003
e-mail: cservices@bsi-global.com
web: bsonline.techindex.co.uk

Further advice on powered stair-lifts and means of escape in case of fire is available from your local fire station.