

Our Ref: BCA BC 15.0.3

Building Plan and Management Group

18 February 2014

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Dear Sir/Madam

TYPE APPROVALS FOR VERTICAL PLATFORM LIFTS AND STAIRLIFTS COMPLYING WITH EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE 98/37/E, 95/16/EC OR BS 5776:1996 TO LAPSE

This circular is to inform the industry that all previous type approvals granted by the Commissioner of Building Control (or his predecessor, the Building Authority) for the installation of vertical platform lifts and stairlifts which are primarily designed for persons with impaired mobility (for example, those approvals for lifts and stairlifts that comply with standards such as European Directive 98/37/E, 95/16/EC or BS 5776:1996) will be cancelled as these approvals have lapsed.

Withdrawal of Type Approval

2. Previously, once permission was granted by the Commissioner of Building Control for the installation of a certain type of vertical platform lift or stairlift (referred to as “type approval”), the same type may be installed in any building. Some examples of vertical platform lifts and stairlifts are shown in Annex A and Annex B respectively.

3. With effect from 1 July 2014, all type approvals that have been granted previously for vertical platform lifts and stairlifts will be cancelled. This will not affect existing vertical platform lifts and stairlifts which were previously installed and are currently in operation unless it is undergoing major alteration or replacement works¹.

Installation of Vertical Platform Lift and Stairlifts on or after 1 July 2014

4. With effect from 1 July 2014, any installation of vertical platform lifts and stairlifts which are primarily designed for persons with impaired mobility will require a separate approval of plans from the Commissioner of Building Control. Approvals from the Commissioner of Building Control will also be required for major alterations or replacement works of existing vertical platform lifts and stairlifts.

5. The design, installation and operation of vertical platform lifts and stairlifts which are primarily designed for persons with impaired mobility shall comply with the European Standards EN 81-41:2010² and EN 81-40:2008³ or American National Standard ASME 18.1-2011⁴ or other relevant standards which are acceptable to the Commissioner of Building Control. Existing vertical platform lifts and stairlifts that undergo major alterations or replacement works will be required to comply with these standards.

¹ Major alteration or replacement works – As defined in the Building Maintenance and Strata Management (Lift and Building Maintenance) Regulations 2005

² EN 81-41:2010 – Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts – Special lifts for the transport of persons and goods. Part 41: Vertical lifting platforms intended for use by persons with impaired mobility

³ EN 81-40:2008 – Stairlifts and inclined lifting platforms intended for persons with impaired mobility

⁴ ASME 18.1-2011 – Safety standard for platform lifts and stairway chairlifts

6. The installation and commissioning of vertical platform lifts and stairlifts shall be supervised by an appropriate professional engineer and on completion, the professional engineer shall submit to the Commissioner of Building Control his certificate of supervision as required under the Building Control Regulations.

Clarifications

7. We would appreciate it if you could convey the contents of this circular to the members of your organisation. For further clarifications, you may email to bca-elift@bca.gov.sg or call us at our hotline at 63257159. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chin Chi Leong', with a stylized, cursive script.

CHIN CHI LEONG
GROUP DIRECTOR
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for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

ANNEX A: EXAMPLES OF VERTICAL PLATFORM LIFTS



ANNEX B: EXAMPLES OF STAIRLIFTS



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