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Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Group

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Dear Sir/Madam

INSTALLATION OF VERTICAL PLATFORM LIFTS AT PUBLIC PLACES

Objective

This circular seeks to highlight to the industry that vertical platform lifts (“VPLs”) should not be installed in public places, or as common lifts in premises with limited access such as condominiums, to serve a difference in level of more than one storey.

Installation of VPLs in Public Places

2. VPLs are electrically powered vertical lifting platforms affixed to a building structure, meant primarily for users with mobility difficulties, such as persons on wheelchairs, parents with prams/strollers and elderly, to overcome a difference in level between spaces (such as a flight of steps). Some examples of VPLs are shown in **Annex A**.

3. These VPLs are thus designed to travel at a slower speed and should be operated in a hold-to-run mode¹. They are not as robustly constructed for heavy usage as the conventional lifts in public spaces. These make VPLs unsuitable for the same type of usage as conventional lifts.

4. Any person who wishes to install a lift in public spaces, or a common lift in premises with limited access such as condominiums, for the safety of the users, should install a conventional lift that meets the Singapore Standard SS550 – Code of practice for installation, operation and maintenance of electric passenger and goods lifts.

5. VPLs should only be used in public spaces or as a common lift in premises with limited access such as condominiums if the purpose is to allow persons with mobility difficulties to overcome a difference in level between spaces of up to one storey. The owner should ensure that the VPL complies with the European Standard EN81-41²,

¹ Hold-to-run mode – For the lift to move, the lift operating button must be pressed, and continued to be pressed throughout the lift motion until the desired level is reached. The moment the button is lifted, the lift will stop moving.

² EN 81-41 – Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts – Special lifts for the transport of persons and goods



American National Standard ASME 18.1³ or such other relevant standards which are acceptable to the Commissioner of Building Control.

6. For installation of lifts in privately-owned dwelling spaces, such as a landed house and a penthouse unit, there is no similar restriction. The owner may choose to install a conventional lift or VPL.

Clarification

7. For further information or clarification, please submit your enquiry through BCA's Online Feedback Form at <https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform>.

Yours faithfully



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ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GROUP
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS

³ ASME 18.1 – Safety standard for platform lifts and stairway chairlifts

ANNEX A: Examples of Vertical Platform Lifts



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