

## Marie Redmond

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**From:** nick.mellor@leia.co.uk  
**Sent:** 03 March 2015 10:50  
**To:** Marie Redmond  
**Subject:** Evacuation and firefighting lifts

Dear Marie,

Thanks for your call and your enquiry on evacuation and firefighting lifts.

As you know, the two types are quite different.

Standards such as BS 9999 and BS 9991 will recommend when a building needs firefighters lifts or evacuation lifts. These are standards for the design of the building for fire so the decision on whether a lift should be a firefighting or evacuation lift is one made as part of the building design. A firefighters lift is intended to be used by firefighters in fighting a fire in a building and so has additional design features intended to keep the lift in use by firefighters and with additional protection. BS EN 81-72 is the standard which describes these extra features. An evacuation lift is quite different and is intended to be used by building management to help with evacuation of persons with disabilities and limited mobility from the building. The extra requirements for an evacuation lift are in BS 9999 Annex G.

I have adapted the following from the introduction of the new CIBSE Guide D due to be published later this year which I hope is of help.

In the event of fire in a building, evacuation routes for occupants of buildings are usually via stairways enclosed in fire resisting construction. However, provision may still have to be made for a lift to operate during a fire either to enable firefighters to access upper floors safely or, in some buildings, to assist in the evacuation of persons with limited mobility before the fire service arrives.

All new lifts installed must meet the requirements of the Lifts Regulations (TSO, 1997). This can be achieved by conformance to harmonised standards. Until 31 August 2017 this can be BS EN 81-1 (BSI, 2010) for electric traction lifts or BS EN 81-2 (BSI, 2010) for hydraulic lifts or to BS EN 81-20 (BSI, 2014); thereafter the harmonised standard will be BS EN 81-20.

Where the lift is required to be used by firefighters, then additional requirements are specified in BS EN 81-72 which is a harmonised European standard

BS 9999 *Code of practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings* (BSI, 2008) gives recommendations and guidance on the design, management and use of buildings for fire safety. BS 9991 *Fire safety in the design, management and use of residential buildings – Code of practice* (BSI, 2011) has recommendations and guidance for residential buildings. Readers are advised to refer to these standards for guidance on when lifts are required to remain in operation in the event of fire, as either firefighting or evacuation lifts to satisfy national building regulations.

At the time of writing, there is no harmonised European standard for lifts for the evacuation of persons with impaired mobility. The European document, CEN/TS 81-76 is a technical specification and therefore not a harmonised standard. Readers should refer to the national foreword of DD CEN/TS 81-76 (BSI, 2011) for its status. In the absence of a harmonised standard, the recommendation provided in BS 9999 Annex G apply.

Should any of the recommendations of BS 9999 or the requirements of the building design necessitate a deviation from a harmonised European standard such as BS EN 81-1, or BS EN 81-2, or BS EN 81-20, or BS EN81-72, as appropriate, then notified body approval must be obtained.

I hope this answers your query; if not, or if you need more, then please let me know and I will do my best to help.

Regards

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