

LIFT INSTALLATION PIT ACCESS



This alert has been generated to ensure that all sites in Victoria are aware of the risks associated with access/egress of lift pits in the construction and maintenance of lift installations.

Before any access into a liftwell pit is carried out on site, there shall be established written rescue and recovery procedures, with nominated responsibilities clearly defined (refer alert 38).

Employers have a duty to ensure their workplace is safe, and this includes controlling the risk of falls from any height.

The Victorian Occupational Health & Safety 2004 under Section 21 states that;

An employer must, so far as is reasonably practical, provide and maintain for employees of the employer, a working environment that is safe and without risks to health.

The Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2007, identifies that when working in close proximity to an unprotected edge, or in close proximity to a hole, shaft or pit that is of

sufficient dimensions to allow a person to fall, extra precautions are required to ensure that safe means of access/egress can be achieved.

Due to the inherent risks associated with the design of many lift well, an employer must eliminate the risk by working on the ground or on a solid structure. If this is not reasonably practicable, you must control the risk using the following measures in order of priority;

- use a passive fall prevention device i.e. scaffold;
- use a work positioning system to ensure employees work within a safe area;
- install a fall arrest system to limit the risk of injuries in the event of a fall; and
- use a fixed or portable ladder, or implement administrative control.

It is the recommendation of the ETU that the above provisions be in place prior to any productive work being undertaken on site.

Contact your designated Health & Safety representative, your local organiser, or David Tuddenham or Kris Gretgrix.