

LIFT INSTALLATION WORKING ON TOP OF LIFT CAR



This alert has been generated to ensure that all sites in Victoria are aware of the OH&S requirements when working on top of a lift car once roped.

Before any access on top of a lift car, 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 work is undertaken in a safe manner.

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The following guidelines must be followed when an employee is required to work on top of a lift car that has been roped;

- (a) the clearance between the front edge of the platform and the inside face of the liftwell enclosure should not exceed 225mm. Where no front wall is provided, the front of the platform should be guarded;
- (b) all landing entrances are permanently installed, complete with electromechanical locking devices and mechanical self-closing devices;
- (c) all door-locking devices are electrically in circuit;
- (d) car, and where applicable, counterweight safety gear, including governor devices, have been installed and adjusted for the designed operation;
- (e) top and bottom terminal speed limiting devices have been fully installed and are fully operational;
- (f) safety operating switches have been installed in the well, on the car and in the lift machine room and are fully operational;
- (g) the lift car structure is installed complete with car door and top of car operating buttons;
- (h) where lifts are located immediately adjacent in the same liftwell enclosure, one of the following shall apply:
 - (i) a fixed screen should be placed between respective liftwells;

(ii) adjacent lifts should have all the following items;

- (a) lift car superstructures installed;
- (b) all electromechanical devices installed on the lift car;
- (c) all landing entrances permanently installed;
- (d) all landing door electromechanical locking devices and closers installed;
- (e) traction drive machinery including car and counterweight roping installed.

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.