



STEPPING OUT






Technical and legislative guidance on Disabled Access - from Movement Management.

Issue 5 : July 2001

Editor's Welcome

Welcome to Stepping Out five. This issue is published as the British summer starts and we all look to spend more time in the open pursuing leisure activities. For many wheelchair users the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation (BWSF) has been at the forefront of organised wheelchair sports activity for many years. The BWSF features on the back page of this issue. It is presently trying to raise funds to refurbish its centre at Stoke Mandeville and we hope that featuring in *Stepping Out* will help this worthy cause. Also in this issue we tackle the minefield that is European Standards and CE marks. There appears to be confusion amongst users, specifiers and building owners as to what a CE mark on a platform lift actually means. All too often a CE mark on the platform assembly is taken to mean that the lift installation conforms to all relevant safety legislation. In fact the major hazard in a platform lift installation is the platform moving within a stationary shaft, a traditional lift has a moving car so this hazard does not exist. Therefore, a platform lift can have a CE mark, but if the shaft is supplied by others, such as the installing builder, then the installation may not comply with all the safety legislation. The platform lift's CE mark certainly does NOT cover the installation, therefore exposing the building operator in the event of an accident or injury.

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-  **We win OTIS award.**
-  **Improved access at Queens Hotel in York.**
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Please note that this newsletter is produced for the benefit of all those people involved in improving access to public and private buildings. While its content is well researched, we can accept no liability for any errors or omissions. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Movement Management. For more information contact Shirley M insballat.Axis on 01572 724932.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CE MARKING ON PLATFORM LIFTS

It need only be five millimetres high but it is a legal requirement that many products sold in the European union bear the CE mark. Fixing the mark to a product and signing the declaration of conformity is a statement by the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the relevant European directives and national standards. In this article we will concentrate on the requirements as they apply to higher travel platform lifts.

For certain categories of equipment, platform lifts included, an independent assessment has to be made by a government notified body. This is to confirm that the product meets the requirements laid out in the EC directives. If the manufacturer is based outside the EU, the importer is responsible for CE marking.

The specific directives which apply to platform lifts are the Machinery and Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) directives, numbered 98/37/EC and 89/336/EEC respectively. Additionally, platform lifts for disabled access are the subject of a British standard - BS6440.

The primary function of the EC directives and BS6440 is to ensure that platform lifts are well designed and built

and that they are fit for the purpose for which they are sold. Also that reasonable precautions are in place to protect the user against injury.

BS6440 relates specifically to platform lifts because, unlike traditional lifts, a platform lift has no lift car. It consists of a platform, which moves within a stationary shaft. A poorly constructed shaft could, therefore, be a source of potential hazards.

Machinery, in the case of the directive, means an assembly of linked parts, at least one of which moves. Reasonable precautions mean that when the machinery is properly installed, maintained and used for its intended purpose, there is no risk of it endangering health or causing injury.



A platform lift has a platform that travels within a shaft, it has no lift car.

A platform lift, with a travel of greater than two metres, consists of two main assemblies - the platform itself and the shaft within which the platform moves. The CE mark, as applied to our products, covers the complete unit, ie. the platform and its shaft which we prefabricate and erect on site. The CE mark is a declaration that all reasonable precautions have been taken to avoid the risk of injury to users.

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TWO HUNDRED PRESTIGE PLATFORM LIFTS SOLD - AND RISING

More than **six per cent of new cars** in the United Kingdom are **supplied through Motability**, the charity which helps disabled people become mobile. Motability was set up on the initiative of the government in 1977 to provide cars and powered wheelchairs to disabled people. Since then more than 870,000 people have used the scheme.
Edgeware & Mill Hill Times
22nd March 2001

The Government propose that **Taxi Accessibility Regulations** should come into force for new vehicles on January 1st 2002 and that by January 2012 all taxis would be required to comply with the main Regulations.
Dumbarton & Vale of Leven Reporter
14th March 2001

People with disabilities in Sheffield are to get more information about **their rights** thanks to a new booklet. Sponsored by Sheffield Council, the booklet **explains the complexities of the act**. The booklet will be available on the Sheffield Council website www.sheffield.gov.uk. Further information can be obtained from the Community Partnership Unit (0114 2735126) at the Town Hall.
Barnsley Star
22nd March 2001

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We have just won our two-hundredth order for our improved, Companion Prestige model.

The new version of the Prestige, which was introduced to the UK market only eighteen months ago, importantly fully meets the requirements of Approved Document M, a section of the English and Welsh building regulations. This is a statutory piece of legislation that gives definitive specifications for a building's features which provide access for disabled people.

Commenting on the achievement, Boyd Porter, Sales Manager at Movement Management, says. "We were one of the first companies to recognise the special needs of wheelchair users. When we took the decision to enhance the design of the

Prestige, in line with Document M, we were confident that it was the right move. Achieving sales of 200 units in just eighteen months is, however, way above our forecasts. This is a reflection of the tremendous confidence both specifiers and users have in the Prestige platform lift."

Designed for travel up to three storeys indoors, the Prestige is a totally self contained unit, with a rated capacity of 400kg, suitable for a wheelchair user and attendant. It runs on a 240v single phase power supply and has its own integral shaft. Installation is very straightforward, requiring no adjacent wall or other support structure. A range of finishes and other options is available, making the Prestige suitable for installation in any type of building, including schools, hotels, restaurants and offices.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CE MARKING

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In other circumstances, a platform lift could be supplied without an integral enclosure to be installed within a shaft constructed by a third party, for example a builder. In this situation the platform lift assembly will be CE marked but the shaft will not.

From our experience it is highly likely that the builder will be unaware of the importance of the tight tolerances required in the production of the shaft. Even if they are and can work to them they will not seek type approval of the shaft once complete. This then is a situation fraught with danger. It may even result in an unsafe installation.

In these circumstances, the unknowing building owner or operator will see a CE mark on the platform lift and will assume that the complete installation complies with the safety requirements of 98/37/EC and BS6440. **However the CE mark on the platform lift is no guarantee that the complete installation meets the specification laid down in the standards. The regulations state:**

- The clearance from the edge of the platform or guide rail to the adjacent shaft

wall should be less than 10mm to prevent trapping of body parts, while the platform is moving.

- Each wall of the shaft should be a smooth continuous vertical surface and should have **no projections greater than 5mm.**

- The walls should be capable of withstanding a force of 300 Newtons, equivalent to the impact of a fully-laden wheelchair.

- The shaft enclosure should extend at least two metres above the upper floor level.

- Landing access doors shall be provided with a vision panel, at least 60mm wide and with its lower edge between 300 and 900mm above the floor level.

Obviously, if these, and the other requirements of the standards, are not satisfied, the installation cannot be deemed to be safe. It could constitute a risk to users and other people in its vicinity. The only way to be certain that the installation is fully compliant is to ascertain that **the complete unit including its shaft have been type tested against the specific criteria for CE marking.**

PLATFORM LIFT INSTALLED AT QUEENS HOTEL IN YORK

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Luton Borough Council have come up with a new programme which includes a commitment to **spend nearly £1 million** during the next three years to improve disabled access to their buildings. A council spokesman said "We have been forthright in recognising **our own buildings are not as accessible as they should be**"

Herald & Post (Luton)
1st March 2001

A directory for disabled people and their carers which offers impartial advice, has been **highly praised**. The booklet gives advice and information about equipment and services, and where to find Disabled Living Centres. To find out where your nearest centre is call 0161 834 1044 for details.

Barnsley Star
19th March 2001

Disabled people are to get a **better deal at leisure centres** run by North West Leicestershire District Council. The council has launched its "Leisure Centres Customer Charter for People with Disabilities" It has been drawn up by the council's Sports & Leisure team in consultation with the disabled customers and the English Federation of Disability Sport, North West Leicestershire Council for Voluntary Service and Handstand.

Ashby Times
2nd March 2001

We have recently installed one of our best selling products, the Companion Supreme, at a prestigious new hotel in York.

The independently owned Queens Hotel which opened in July last year, is located on the banks of the river Ouse, right at the heart of the City Centre. In addition to its picturesque setting and being conveniently situated for all of York's many tourist attractions, the hotel also offers its guests the optimum in residential comfort. Furnished to an extremely high standard, it has 78 bedrooms, 27 family rooms, 20 twin rooms and 31 double (all with ensuite bathrooms) and four rooms to accommodate people with disabilities.

Establishments such as hotels have to meet certain regulatory building requirements as stipulated by the Disability Discrimination Act. However, the Queens Hotel is delighted to have the opportunity to be able to welcome those with mobility problems facilitated by the specially adapted bedrooms and the installation of a platform lift.

The Companion Supreme lift has been installed at the main entrance of the building and provides alternative access to stairs which lead to the

main reception area on the ground floor. Compact and aesthetically pleasing in design the Supreme, which can be used for internal and external applications, is a free standing structure. A key reason for the products continued popularity is the fact that it doesn't require a pit or machine room (it is simply powered on a single phase 240v electricity supply) so requires the minimum of building work to install.

Manufactured with an enclosure to facilitate secure travel and prevent accidents, the Supreme can travel to a maximum height of 2000mm. Like all lifts in

Movement Management's Companion range safety is paramount. In addition, it has a generous platform size which easily accommodates a wheelchair passenger and attendant, the Supreme is also stringently designed to meet both European Safety Standards and the Machinery Directive.

Samantha Harding, Manager at the Queens Hotel comments: "To date we have been really pleased with the performance of the lift. So far we haven't had any operational problems, it is quiet and unobtrusive and has proved to be the ideal solution to meet our disabled access needs."



Foyer view of Supreme



1st floor view showing neat half-height door

SPORT FOR ALL

The British Wheelchair Sports Foundation (BWSF) is the national organisation for wheelchair sport in the UK and exists to provide, promote and develop opportunities for people of all ages with disabilities to participate in recreational and competitive wheelchair sport.

Based at the national wheelchair sports centre in Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the paralympic games, the Foundation was originally established to promote the vital role that access to sport played in the rehabilitation of those suffering spinal injuries. Statistics show that prior to this innovation, eight out of ten spinal injury patients died within three years of paralysis. Now many severely disabled people lead active and fulfilling lives through involvement in sport. This unique wheelchair sports facility was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1969.

The BWSF relies on the charitable support of individuals, companies and trusts as well as fund-raising events to achieve its objectives, which are:-

- To ensure the provision and development of quality sports and leisure facilities for the less able.
- To develop regional sports camps for disabled children.
- To provide a comprehensive information service for anyone interested in disabled sport.
- To organise major sporting events, such as the national wheelchair championships, at Stoke Mandeville.
- To act as the umbrella body for seventeen different wheelchair sports associations.



A major initiative, launched by HRH the Prince of Wales, the Royal Patron of the

BWSF is the Sporting Chance Appeal, to raise funds for the refurbishment of the national wheelchair sports centre at Stoke Mandeville. The centre provides training facilities for wheelchair athletes from all over the world. A number of sporting celebrities, both able bodied and disabled, have given freely of their time to support the appeal and raise the awareness of wheelchair sport. The general public

can give their support through a number of innovative schemes.

To learn more about the exceptional work of the BWSF and how you can offer your support, visit their very informative web site at

www.britishwheelchairsports.org.

Alternatively, they can be contacted at:

British Wheelchair Sports Foundation
Guttmann Road
Stoke Mandeville
Bucks
HP21 9PP
Tel: 01296 395995

SPECIAL NEEDS:

During our research for Stepping Out we obviously monitor the UK press. To our amusement the following appeared in the *Leicester Mercury* under the headline **Rampant desire.**

An Australian brothel has installed a wheelchair ramp and other facilities for the handicapped in what advocates hope will be the start of a nationwide trend. Melbourne's Pink Palace has been praised by groups for the handicapped.

A number of other papers featured this story with the *Burton Mail* giving its readers significantly more detail.

Toyota has joined up with the English Tourism Council to distribute *Accessible Britain 2001* to list information on a wide range of visitor attractions suitable for people with mobility difficulties. The guide lists hundreds of places to stay and visit.

Workshop Guardian
2nd March 2001

Traffic wardens have now started challenging drivers displaying disabled badges in an attempt to clamp down on cheats using them to park where they want. The badges are thought to be changing hands for up to **£500 on the black market.**
South London Press
2nd March 2001

in the news

WE WIN OTIS AWARD

We have received a prestigious award from our parent company: Otis. As a subsidiary of the world's largest lift company, our specialist products help improve access to private and public buildings for the less able and wheelchair users.

The award was presented to our General Manager, Derrick Beck at a recent meeting of all Otis' UK subsidiary companies. It recognises our achievement as the top-performing subsidiary, within Otis UK, during the first quarter of 2001. This is the first time that Movement Management has received this particular accolade. The presentation was made by Jack Leingang, Chief Executive of Otis UK.

Expressing his delight at receiving the award, Derrick Beck said, "The winning of this award is a direct reflection of the enthusiasm, zest and pride which the employees of Movement Management have

for the company. The determination and effort required to exceed, in all aspects, a very tough plan in the first quarter of 2001, is a credit to every employee."

"We have seen a massive increase in order intake, the best we have ever experienced compared to the same quarter in previous years. I attribute this to exceptional team spirit. We will continue to strive for 100% customer satisfaction and product performance. This will enable us to be not only the best performing subsidiary company within the Otis UK group, but also, the best within the market sectors we serve."

"The introduction of new products, as well as the development of existing ones, will most definitely give us the edge over our competitors and may result in another quarterly award from Otis."

"I would personally like to thank everyone at Movement Management for making it possible for me to receive this award on behalf of the whole company."