



STEPPING OUT

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

Issue 7: February 2002

Editor's Welcome






Welcome to Stepping Out seven, this is the first edition of the new year. It is our aim, in Stepping Out, to assess the implications of new pieces of legislation and how they may impact upon the platform lift market.

In this issue we take a look at BS 8300, a new code of practice, which provides recommendations for the design of domestic and non domestic buildings and their use by the less able. Whilst BS 8300 does not cover platform lifts in any detail, it does make recommendations, which appear to be at odds with Approved Document M, part of the English and Welsh Building Regulations.

There is an article about the work of English Heritage. In particular, this details their commitment to compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act and ensuring equality of access to our country's historical buildings and monuments. In keeping with this theme, we feature a recent installation at a listed building - The Cambridge Corn Exchange.

On page two you will find details of our exciting new literature. This covers the Companion platform lift range and provides technical specifications and application examples. Developments to our web site are also covered on page two. An announcement of a new recruit to the company's sales team, Roger Perkins, appears on page four.

In this issue:

-  **Our new and improved product literature and website.**
-  **The work of English Heritage.**
-  **Expansion to our sales operation.**
-  **Improved access at Cambridge Corn Exchange.**
-  **In the News.**

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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 Minshall at Axis on 01572 724937.

NEW CODE OF PRACTICE WILL GIVE RISE TO DEBATE

In previous issues of Stepping Out we have attempted to provide clarification concerning the plethora of legislation and codes of practice relating to platform lift design and installation. We have looked at the influence of the Disability Discrimination Act, Part M of the English and Welsh building regulations, British Standard 6440 and the EEC Machinery and EMC Directives. It is no surprise, therefore, that, in this edition, we tackle the newest document to be introduced - BS8300:2001.

Issued in 2001, BS8300 is a new code of practice which provides guidance on good practice in the design of domestic and non domestic buildings and their approaches so that they are convenient to use by disabled people. It is a revision and amalgamation of two previous standards, BS5619 and BS 5810. The new standard applies to all aspects of the building, including car parking provision, access routes to and around the premises and entrances and interiors. Lifts, as an essential amenity for disabled people in multi storey buildings, are covered.

BS8300 goes further than the codes of practice which it replaces. The design

recommendations, where relevant, are based on actual user trials. As BS8300 embraces so many issues relating to disabled access within one code of practice, it will, undoubtedly, become a much used source of reference by architects and specifiers alike.

BS8300 does not cover the subject of platform lifts in great detail. In section 8.4.4, it states that platform lifts should conform to BS6440, a specific code of practice for powered lifting platforms for use by disabled people. It does make one recommendation, which was not detailed in BS6440. For the first time in a British Standard document, there is a clear statement concerning platform size. It states "The minimum clear

dimensions of the platform should be 1050mm wide and 1250mm long."

We welcome this initiative. To our surprise, however, the recommendation for minimum platform dimensions appears inconsistent with those laid down in Approved Document M of the English and Welsh Building Regulations. This is surprising considering that Approved Document M gives definitive

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Our platform lifts have a platform size that conforms to both BS8300 and Approved Document M.



NEW LITERATURE CONTAINS BETTER TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Local authorities in England and Wales are to disregard earnings when deciding whether, and how much, to charge disabled workers for home care services. The move represents a government u-turn. New guidance issued to social services departments is intended to make work pay for disabled people by removing a "poverty trap" that in effect condemned them to low wages. The decision follows lobbying by a string of disabled groups, including a campaign by Labour MP's and peers.
The Guardian
28th November 2001

Wheelchair bound Michelle Lewis is among many people to be made an MBE in the New Years honours list. Michelle has raised more than £1.3m for charities, despite her disability. Michelle, 19, has set herself a new target of raising £2m by her 21st birthday in July 2003.
The Mirror
31st December 2001

A new BBC drama is set to challenge preconceptions of disability. In the ground-breaking move by the BBC, two amateur actors were given the leading roles in this high profile drama, produced by the woman behind *Queer as Folk* and *Clocking Off*.
The Guardian
30th November 2001

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We have recently produced a new set of literature covering the four models in our Companion range of platform lifts for disabled access. Recent changes in the specifications of our two most popular models - the Prestige and the Supreme - meant that the old versions were no longer representative of the current offering.

The new brochures, whilst being very appealing in design, are full of information which will be of interest to both platform lift users and specifiers. Photographs and brief descriptions of each models' key features are included, together with detailed technical data. This will enable architects and specifiers to decide which model best suits their requirements whilst assessing how it may fit into the environment.

Our new "moveman" logo is incorporated in to the front page design. We believe that this new eye-catching logo presents an easier to remember image of our company as well as better reflecting the nature of our business.

The literature can be viewed on our web site at www.moveman.co.uk. All of the brochures are available in Adobe's acrobat pdf format and can be downloaded or printed out as they were designed. Acrobat is available as a free download if you do not already have the program on your P.C. At the same time, we have upgraded the site in several other ways. Details of our new Titan heavy duty goods lift have been added. We have also included a news and views section, which features back issues of Stepping Out as well as a series of application stories covering recent installations of our products. Again, these are all available in pdf format for ease of reproduction.

If you would like to receive a full set of our new literature, simply return the reply slip sent to you with this edition of Stepping Out. Alternatively, visit the Moveman web site and use the email facility to contact us. We will send you, by return, the four brochures in a handy corporate wallet.

NEW CODE OF PRACTICE WILL GIVE RISE TO DEBATE

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specifications of a building's features providing access for the disabled, which must be complied with. It clearly states in paragraph 2.14 of Approved Document M, "Requirement M2 will be met if a lift has a car whose width is at least 1100mm and whose length is at least 1400mm". Several years ago, we took the strategic decision to invest in our Companion Prestige platform lift range to bring it fully into compliance with Approved Document M. As such, it clearly exceeds the minimum recommendations for platform dimensions, laid down in BS8300. The same can not be said for many other platform lift suppliers, who standardise on a 1000mm wide platform.

Apart from Approved Document M and the new BS8300, the other important pieces of legislation

concerning platform lift installations are the Machinery Directive 98/37/EC and the EMC directive 89/336/EEC (a topic we covered in Stepping Out, issue 5). All of our lifts carry the CE mark. This is a declaration of conformity with these directives, which must be complied with. The primary function of the EC directives is to ensure that the products 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. In summary, this means that all Movement Management platform lifts, regardless of travel height, are safe.

Undoubtedly BS8300 will, if it hasn't already, provoke more debate on the specifications for platform lifts. We would welcome your views.

PLATFORM LIFT IMPROVES ACCESS AT CAMBRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

Disabled people are being consulted on access improvements to city council buildings. Leicester City Council has carried out audits of more than 250 buildings it owns and occupies, to see whether or not they are accessible to disabled people. **Leicester Mercury** 23rd January 2002

Disabled sport: Peter Norfolk recorded the first major victory by a British singles player in a wheelchair when he beat Rick Draney, the American No 3: 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the quad final at the US Open Championships in San Diego. **The Telegraph** 18th October 2001

Ministers were accused yesterday of smuggling through measures to deny incapacity benefit to disabled people if they did not attend interviews to discuss their job prospects. Steve Webb, the Liberal Democrat welfare spokesman said: "Given the many barriers to work already faced by disabled people, forcing them to discuss jobs on pain of loss of benefit is cruel and unnecessary." **The Guardian** 15th October 2001

The Princess Royal celebrates the 40th anniversary of her charity, The National Autistic Society. The charity was set up to help people with the disability. **The Times** 18th January 2002

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Cambridge City Council is recognised nationally for providing a high quality and wide ranging leisure service to the city's residents and visitors. It is committed to ensuring that these services are available and accessible to everyone. A recently completed project at the Corn Exchange, the city's centre for arts and entertainment, was undertaken to improve facilities for the disabled. The new amenities include the installation of a special platform lift to provide wheelchair users with alternative access to special viewing boxes in the building's upper levels. We were awarded the contract to supply one of our Companion Prestige platform lifts.

Located in the heart of the city, the Corn Exchange, which was originally built in 1875, was used for trading corn until 1965. From the outset, however, it was designed to also be used as an entertainment centre. Early events held at the venue included wrestling and boxing as well as dances and balls. Since a major conversion in the 1980's, the Corn Exchange has become a diverse arts and entertainment centre, capable of accommodating an audience of up to 1849. It also has extensive conference facilities.

Recent improvements to the Corn Exchange have seen the inclusion of many new facilities, specifically for disabled users. In the auditorium, for example, there are now more seating areas for both wheelchair users and visually impaired people together with their respective attendants. There is an

infra-red hearing system for those with hearing impairments and in some cases the performances are sign interpreted. The Prestige platform lift enables

wheelchair users to access the upstairs bar and special viewing boxes.

Mark Taylor, Operations Manager at the Corn Exchange explains. "For many years, we have been trying to increase the numbers of disabled visitors we could accommodate. The lift has made a big difference, enabling as many as twelve extra wheelchair users to attend performances. Due to the confines of the

stairwell where the lift is located, it was not possible to install a passenger lift. Our Prestige platform lift is ideal. As a free standing unit, no pit is required thus keeping building work to a minimum."

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.

Mark Taylor continues. "The Corn Exchange is a grade 2 listed building and so we had to consult the listed buildings officer regarding the design. The lift needed to look modern and obviously not part of the original building. The Prestige's stainless steel and glass panelling provides a very stylish and attractive contrast to the original architecture."



Platform lift installed at Cambridge Corn Exchange

BROADENING ACCESS TO OUR HISTORICAL HERITAGE

How do you provide dignified access for disabled people to a historic building without damaging its special architectural interest? When the final stage of requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act comes into force in 2004, this is a question that the owners of all listed buildings in public use will be required to answer. English Heritage is issuing extended guidance to prepare owners of listed buildings for the forthcoming regulation. It has already helped many nationally important buildings reconcile the needs of access and heritage.

English Heritage's work falls into three main categories: identifying buildings of historical or architectural interest and ancient monuments for protection; advising property owners and local planning authorities on proposals affecting listed buildings and conservation areas and increasing the public's understanding of and broadening their access to their heritage. It is also responsible for the management and presentation of over 400

historic properties and monuments in the nation's care. More than five million people visited these sites in the past year.

English Heritage has commissioned two access consultants, Lisa Foster and John Adams, to produce an updated version of its guide - Easy Access to Historic Properties. The guide will help owners approach the access problems of their buildings and determine if access can be made.

Lisa Foster comments, "Successful disability access schemes in a historic context share a single principle - that no two solutions are alike! There are many typical solutions but there is no DDA compliant access standard that can be applied to all listed buildings. Designers and Architects must use the individual features of the site to develop a unique solution."

English Heritage's aim is to encourage excellent access schemes, sensitive to their historic settings, that do not separate those with restricted mobility from other visitors.

Although English Heritage is, in part, funded by the Government, it relies



This platform lift installation shows how, with careful and sympathetic design, a platform lift can be incorporated into a building with historic interest.

on income from other sources to carry out its excellent work. A large portion of this comes from an innovative membership scheme, giving the public unlimited access to all of its sites for a relatively small outlay.

If you are interested in joining English Heritage or would simply like to learn more about its fascinating work, visit the informative web site at: www.english-heritage.org.uk

Most colleges and universities are not ready to comply with the Special Education Needs and the Disability Act when it comes into force in September 2002, according to Gerard Kelly, vice-president of the lecturers' union Naffhe. Mr Kelly added "Disabled students will gain full rights to mainstream education but the £170m set aside is not enough to make all buildings in the sector fully accessible".

The Guardian
3rd December 2001

Leicester County Council is considering scrapping free train travel and specific free bus rides for those with disabilities, in a bid to save £323,000 a year.

Leicester Mercury
26th November 2001

in the news

NEW RECRUIT STRENGTHENS OUR SALES TEAM

In the disabled platform lift market, Movement Management is the market leader". Explains Roger Perkins, who has recently joined Movement Management's Northern sales team. "The company sets the standard concerning safety and interpretation of the complex legislation surrounding platform lifts and disabled access."

The appointment has been made, following an extremely successful 2001 for us, during which turnover grew considerably. Roger brings a wealth of experience to the business, having spent all of his working life in the lift industry. For much of that time, Roger has been exposed to the particular issues relating to disabled access, having sold both stair and platform lifts. With such a background,

he is well placed to explain the importance and benefits of installing our platform lifts to those responsible for commissioning, designing or managing new or established public buildings.

Being part of a multi national organisation, like Otis, is also important to Roger. "In this industry, it is important that any supplier can offer potential users exceptional after sales support. Movement Management is in the enviable position of having access to the type of highly sophisticated service facility as befits a hugely successful company, like Otis."

Roger Perkins lives, with his wife, in Rotherham and includes among his interests golf and fishing.