

2.8 Lifts Guidelines

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- 2.8.1 Lifts are an essential amenity for disabled people in multi-storey buildings. Lifts may be passenger lifts, (vertical) platform lifts or stair (inclined platform) lifts. ✓
- 2.8.2 Platform lifts transfer persons on a guarded platform vertically from one level to another. Where it may be impractical to provide a passenger lift, a platform lift may constitute a reasonable alternative. Stair (inclined platform) lifts travel up the pitch of a stair and can be in the form of a platform only. A stairlift that incorporates a chair rather than a platform is not considered as an acceptable means of providing accessibility in a public building. ✓
- 2.8.3 In all situations where a lift is required to negotiate a change in level the preference of a vertical circulation shall be, first a passenger lift, if not possible a vertical platform lift is the second preference, and a stairlift (inclined platform lift) will only be considered as a means of final resort where it is demonstrably evident that the other forms of vertical access are not possible. ✓

Passenger Lifts

- 2.8.4 Multi storey buildings should have at least one lift that is of sufficient size to be accessible by wheelchair users and should serve all floors. ✓
- 2.8.5 The distance between a lift that conforms to these guidelines and the extremity of the floor it serves shall be no greater than 40 metres. ✓
- 2.8.6 The minimum internal dimensions of the cabin of the passenger lift are as follows: ✓
- (i) 1100 mm wide and 1400 mm deep where the lift contains one door or has doors which are facing each other.
- (ii) 1400 mm wide and 1600 mm deep, where doors are located at 90 degrees relative to each other.
- 2.8.7 In an existing building, internal dimensions of the cabin of the passenger lift 1000 mm wide and 1250 mm deep (Type 1 lift) may be considered reasonable in those instances where the larger lift size mentioned in the foregoing cannot be accommodated. For the purposes of these guidelines, an existing building is defined as one which was constructed before 1st January 2000.
- 2.8.8 Lifts shall have a clear landing 1500 mm wide and 1500 mm deep in front of the lift doors. ✓

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- 2.8.9 Lift door, or doors, shall have a clear opening width of at least 900 mm. In the case of Type 1 lifts, doors 800 mm wide may be considered reasonable.

✓

See guidelines on DOORS

- 2.8.10 Lifts shall incorporate a signalling system that gives a minimum of 5 seconds notification that the lift is answering a call, and a minimum of dwell time of 5 seconds, before its doors begin to close after they are fully open. The system may be overridden by a door reactivating device which relies on photoelectric or infrared sensor, but not a pressure sensitive device, provided that the minimum time for a lift door to remain fully open is 5 seconds.

- 2.8.11 A lift door should be easily distinguishable from the adjoining wall by colour and luminance contrast.

- 2.8.12 Where a lift has only one door, a mirror shall be provided on the wall of the lift cabin opposite the lift door. The mirror should not extend below 900 mm from the lift floor.

- 2.8.13 Persons with disability should be able to summon and control the lift as well as reach and fully operate any emergency communications device.

- 2.8.14 The centre line of the highest button of the landing and passenger cabin controls are to be located between 900 mm and 1100 mm above the landing and the cabin floor, and the passenger cabin controls are to be at least 400 mm from the front wall of the passenger cabin.

See guidelines on CONTROLS

- 2.8.15 Call buttons should contrast in colour and luminance with the surrounding faceplate, and the faceplate should similarly contrast with the wall on which it is mounted.

- 2.8.16 Lifts shall incorporate a suitable tactile indication on, or adjacent to, the lift buttons within the cabin to confirm the floor selected.

- 2.8.17 All lifts serving more than two floors shall have an auditory and visual signal to indicate the floor level the lift has reached.

- 2.8.18 Passenger lifts should be fitted with an emergency communication system that should incorporate an induction coupler for the benefit of people who wear hearing aids. A visual indicator should be provided

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to confirm that an emergency call has been received. It is recommended that lift doors have glazing panel extending from 900 mm above the cabin floor.

- 2.8.19 The floor of the lift cabin should be slip resistant and have similar frictional qualities to the floor of the lift landing to decrease the risk of stumbling.

See guidelines on SURFACES

- 2.8.20 All safety requirements shall comply with MSA EN81-70:2003 and MSA ISO 9368-1:2005.

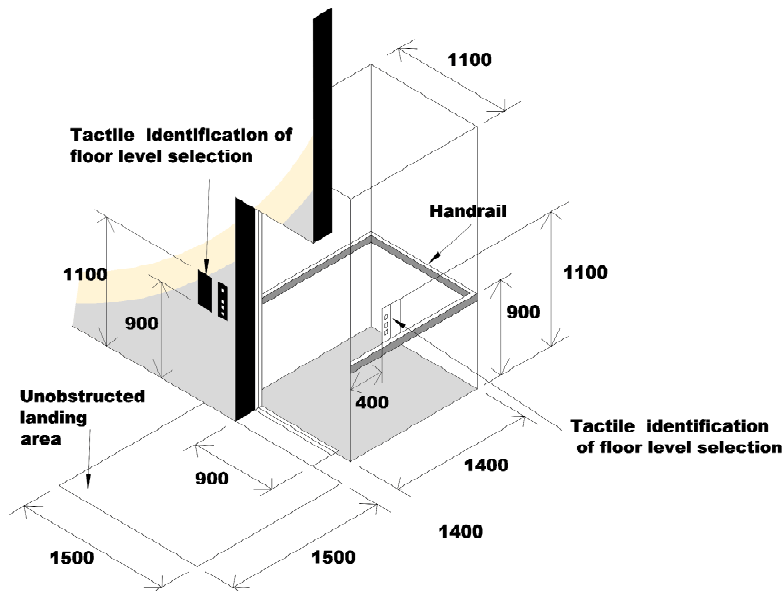


Figure 2.8.1 Passenger cabin dimensions for one door / opposite doors cabin.

Platform (vertical) Lifts

- 2.8.21 In new buildings platform lifts are not generally acceptable as a means of vertical access.

In extraordinary circumstances (including cases where the building incorporates a semi basement) and where it is not technically feasible to negotiate changes in levels by means of a ramp or a passenger lift, a platform lift may be considered acceptable only if it is proved in writing by a competent person (e.g. warranted *perit*) that it is not technically feasible to negotiate the difference in level by a ramp or passenger lift and only if it is located within the building fabric and / or fully sheltered from the elements.

It is noted that in the these exceptional cases, a platform lift may be considered as reasonable only in the event that an accessible route cannot be provided utilising a passenger lift serving all floors of the building.

- 2.8.22 In existing buildings a platform lift may be considered acceptable, as an entrance, entrance route or accessible route within the building, only if it is proved in writing by a competent person (e.g. warranted *perit*) that it is not technically feasible to negotiate the difference in level by a ramp or passenger lift and only if it is located within the building fabric and / or fully sheltered from the elements.

It is noted that in the these exceptional cases, a platform lift may be considered as reasonable only in the event that an accessible entrance or route cannot be provided utilising a passenger lift serving all floors of the building.

For the purposes of these guidelines, an existing building is defined as one which was constructed before 1st January 2000.

- 2.8.23 Platform lifts without a lift enclosure are acceptable with a vertical travel distance not exceeding 2 m. ✓

- 2.8.24 Platform lifts should be accessible at all times and operable without the need to obtain keys on request to third parties unless the third party is in attendance and may be called through an intercom system adjacent to the lift controls. The operating system and controls shall be such that allow for independent use by a wheelchair user without the need for assistance to operate the platform lift.

- 2.8.25 The centre line of the highest button of the landing and platform lift controls are to be located between 900 mm and 1100 mm above the landing and the platform lift floor, and the platform lift controls are to be at least 400 mm from any return wall.

- 2.8.26 The minimum clear dimensions of the platform of a platform lift shall be: ✓
- i. 1050 mm wide and 1250 mm deep, where the platform has one door or which are facing each other.
 - ii. 1100 mm wide and 1400 mm deep, where two doors are located at 90 degrees relative to each other.
- 2.8.27 Doors shall have an effective clear width of 900 mm. ✓
- 2.8.28 Platform lifts should be provided with clear instructions for use and fitted with an alarm in case of difficulty.
- See Guidelines on SIGNAGE*
- 2.8.29 Where a platform lift is installed, a stair access conforming to the relevant standard in these guidelines shall be provided to complement the platform lift. ✓
- 2.8.30 The platform lift shall have a clear area of 1500 mm by 1500 mm wide at the top and bottom landings. ✓
- 2.8.31 All safety requirements shall comply with MSA EN81-41.

Stair (Inclined platform) lifts

- 2.8.32 Stairlifts are not an acceptable means of vertical circulation in new buildings or in a new extension to an existing building. For the purposes of these guidelines, a new building is defined as one which was constructed after the 1st January 2000.
- 2.8.33 Stairlifts should only be installed in existing commercial and public buildings where it is not reasonably practical to incorporate a passenger lift or a platform lift.
- 2.8.34 Stairlifts will only be considered as an acceptable form of vertical circulation in an existing building following clear proof by a competent person (e.g. warranted *perit*) that other forms of vertical access are not technically possible.
- 2.8.35 A stair lift will only be considered as a means of access to, or as part of an entrance route into, an existing building, after it has been established that the following access routes are not technically feasible (listed in the order of preference of access): level entrance, ramped entrance, entrance via passenger lift serving building, and entrance via a platform (vertical) lift. For the purposes of these guidelines, an existing building is defined as one which was constructed before 1st January 2000.
- 2.8.36 The maximum permissible vertical rise for a stairlift as part of an approach to an entrance to a building is 4 m.

- 2.7.37 The maximum permissible vertical rise for a stairlift as part of a vertical circulation route within a building is limited to one floor.
- 2.8.38 In existing buildings the use of a stair lift as part of an accessible entrance route may be considered if it is located within the building fabric and / or adequately sheltered from the elements.
- 2.8.39 Stairlifts shall be located within sight of a member of staff who can assist users in case of difficulty
- 2.8.40 For a building with a single stairway, the clear stairway width for means of escape should be maintained between the carriage rail of the stairlift and the handrail opposite.
- 2.8.41 For a building with two or more stairways between storeys, a stairlift should only be installed on a stairway that is not intended to be used as a means of escape.
- 2.8.42 A minimum headroom of 2000 mm or as per manufacturer's instructions should be maintained throughout the travel of the stairlift.
- 2.8.43 The stairlift shall have a clear area of 1500 mm by 1500 mm wide at the top and bottom landings. ✓
- 2.8.44 The minimum platform size incorporated in a stair lift is 800 mm wide and 1250 mm deep. ✓
- 2.8.45 In exceptional cases a platform size of 750 mm wide and 1000 mm deep may be considered reasonable, provided that it can be demonstrated that it is technically impossible to install an inclined platform lift incorporating a platform with dimensions cited in the foregoing.
- 2.8.46 Platform lifts should be accessible at all times and operable without the need to obtain keys on request to third parties unless the third party is in attendance and may be called through an intercom system adjacent to the lift controls. The operating system and controls shall be such that allow for independent use by a wheelchair user without the need for assistance to operate the platform lift.
- 2.8.47 The centre line of the highest button of the landing and platform lift controls are to be located between 900 mm and 1100 mm above the landing and the platform lift floor, and the platform lift controls are to be at least 400 mm from any return wall.
- 2.8.48 All safety requirements shall comply with MSA EN81-40:2008