

# Briefing note

#### 11 November 2013

Subject

Lifts Provided for Fire Service Use

Brief for

Lakanal House Working Group

Author

Assistant Commissioner, Fire Safety Regulation steve.turek@london-fire.gov.uk

#### Introduction

1. Further to the issues identified with the lack of maintenance and testing of Firefighting lifts after the Lakanal fire the following work has been carried out to date to address this situation. The FSR Fire Engineering Group has been actively engaged in work relating to lifts provided for the fire service, and in particular the maintenance of these installations. This work has attempted to capture all lifts provided for fire service use (be they old type "Fireman's" lifts which return to the ground floor on the operation of a special key, modern standard fire fighting lifts which have additional failsafe and safety features and anything in between) as part of this work.

#### Maintenance

- 2. We have liaised with the Health & Safety Executive (IISE), the Lift and Escalator Industry Association (LEIA), and the Safety Assessment Federation (SAFed) in order to ascertain what lift industry guidance is currently available in relation to lifts for fire service use and what the expectations are in terms of servicing and maintaining these installations. As a result it has been identified and agreed by all these agencies that additional guidance is required to highlight to lift installers/ servicing companies and responsible persons that all functions of a fire service lift installation should specifically be subject to routine periodic testing and maintenance by a competent person.
- 3. LEIA has subsequently published additional guidance (which has been circulated and is available to all of their members), and have been proactively raising the awareness of lifts provided for fire service use across the industry.
- 4. The HSE are currently updating their guidance in relation to the maintenance of lifts provided for the fire service. We have been informed that this will probably be forwarded to us for comment by the end of the year.
- 5. In-conjunction with LEIA, we have reviewed the current draft version of the revised BS EN 81-72 fire fighting lift standard, and have provided formal comments on this document via the British Standard Institute. As part of this we have supported the inclusion of additional commentary within the standard that outlines best practice maintenance routines for fire fighting lift installations.

6. FSR Fire Engineering Group delivered a presentation in liaison with LEIA at LiftEX (May 2013, at ExCeL) relating specifically to the use and maintenance of FF lifts, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The audience comprised of key lift industry stakeholders.

### Internal Actions

- 7. There have been a number of initiatives undertaken within the LFB to raise operational awareness. These have included:
- 8. An internal Callpoint article for Inspecting Officers was produced in March 2012 which clarified the potential differing standard of fire lifts in premises visited. This article highlighted the need to ensure that evacuation strategies and the Fire Risk Assessment for the premises demonstrate an awareness of the use, and ability to use, a particular lift type.
- 9. A further Callpoint article is currently in draft in relation to the maintenance of lifts provided for fire service use that should be being considered as part of fire safety audits of premises. In addition, the need for maintenance regimes to be examined to ensure that the "functions for use" required by both types of lifts actually operate and that the lift will be available when called upon, either as part of the evacuation process from the building, or for fire-fighter access.
- 10. We continue to support Area Fire Safety Teams in relation to technical matters relevant to lifts provided for fire service use, including work completed as part of post-fire audits where it has been identified that lifts have not performed as would be expected.

## Other relevant work

11. Fire Engineering Group has introduced LEIA to the CFOA Fire Engineering and Technical standard committee in order develop potential national work relating to lifts provided for fire service use. We also continue to liaise directly with the aforementioned committee. We continue to maintain contact with LEIA and the HSE on matters relating to lifts provided for fire service use.