



WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH NOTICE (WSHN)

TOPIC SAFE OPERATION OF PASSENGER AND CARGO LIFTS				Reference Number 2024/WSHN/04
Approved by: Acting Director of Compliance and International Affairs Division	Endorsed by: Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer	Issue date: 26 June 2024	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 1

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) would like to remind all principals, occupiers, employers and self-employed persons who are lift owners or persons responsible for the safe operation of any lift that is used to carry goods or passengers, of their legal responsibilities under the Workplace Safety Health Order (WSHO), 2009 and regulations made thereunder. This WSHN also provides recommendations and lessons learnt from two fatal incidents involving the use of makeshift lifts to avoid similar incidents from recurring.

In April of this year, a fatality occurred when a worker fell, from a height of approximately 4 m, together with the makeshift cargo lift and its load. This workplace fatality is still under investigation.

Another similar incident occurred in 2020, when a worker, loading items into a makeshift cargo lift, fell to his death caused to the breakage of the lift's wire rope cable. The incident was due to the design integrity of the lift which did not meet the applicable safety codes and standards. Moreover, it lacked the installation of safety features including, but not limited to, safety brakes, door sensors, door closing services, and emergency evacuation features.

SHENA also received a report in late 2023 regarding an elevator entrapment of a worker that lasted for over an hour due to a misalignment of the contact door leading to the elevator failure, requiring assistance from the Fire and Rescue Department. A similar incident was also reported in the same year; however, the entrapment was brief.

The preliminary investigation findings for both tragic fatal incidents mentioned above indicated that both of the cargo lift systems used were not in compliance with Regulation 19 of Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations, 2014, as they lacked the required safety features and generally failed to comply to any lift international standards.

LEARNING POINT

Lifts are generally designed to international standards such as (EN81-20 and EN81-50 or equivalent) and fitted with several safety features like multiple lifting ropes/chains, safety brakes, door sensors, door closing devices, emergency evacuation features, emergency lighting, emergency power and fire emergency systems, among other safety considerations.

The Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations, 2014, **requires that all lifts provided for use in the workplace are to be thoroughly examined by an Authorised Examiner at regular intervals, at least once every six months.** This applies to lifts and hoists that are used to transport persons and loads.

LEGAL DUTIES OF LIFT OWNERS

All lifts are subject to the WSHO and thus lift owners are reminded of their legal duties as laid down under Sections 17 and 19 of WSHO, 2009 and Regulation 19 of the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations 2014.

These legal responsibilities include:

1. **Periodic maintenance** of the lift as per the manufacturer's recommendation by engaging a lift service contractor to ensure it is in a safe condition and precautions are undertaken;
2. Ensure that the lift is **examined by an Authorised Examiner** at statutory intervals (at least every six months);
3. To **act promptly to remedy any defects** that were found;
4. **Clearly display the certificate of test and examination** as well as the **maximum capacity/ safe working load/ maximum number of persons** which the lift can safely carry; and
5. Ensure that **every rope/ chain/ wire, part of the structure** and every article supporting the lift is of **good construction**, and **sound material** and is of **adequate strength** suitable for the nature of its use.

In addition to the above legal duties, it is strongly recommended that lift owners keep the following documents: -

- **Copies of maintenance schedules and records;**
- **Any supplementary tests** that have been carried out e.g. non-destructive testing;
- **Previous inspection certificates of examinations;**
- **Copies of the rope manufacturer's certificate of tests** stating the specified and actual breaking load, and the rope construction;
- **Copy of Original certificate** from the manufacturer or declaration of conformity; and
- **Operation and Maintenance Manual.**

All principals, occupiers, employers and self-employed persons are hereby reminded of the dangers of the use of makeshift (homemade) lift which can result in a fatality due to its unknown integrity and lack of safety features. SHENA strongly urge to stop using or installing makeshift lifts and instead use or install lifts that are of proper standards and comply with the Regulations.

For further clarifications on the matter, please submit your enquiries by clicking “General Enquiries” at the SHENA website: www.shena.gov.bn or contact the SHENA office on the general number +673 238 2000 within office hours.

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