



Health and Safety
Executive

Chief Executive

Dr Richard Judge

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Mrs L C Brown
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Your Ref: CEM/GA/00825-2015

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

8 April 2016



Dear Mrs Brown

BELINDA JANE WISE

Thank you for your letter of the 15 February regarding Mrs Wise's tragic death on 6 March 2015.

Your letter recommended that consideration be given to making lift doors more apparent and distinguishable from the rest of the interior of the lift, and also to the sounding of a warning message (that may assist visually impaired passengers). I can confirm that the information provided to you during the inquest is correct; currently such warnings or signs are not mandatory.

The design and installation of lifts in the UK are governed by the Lifts Regulations 1997 which are based on the European Lifts Directive (95/15/EC). The Regulations impose duties on manufacturers and installers of lifts to design and install their lifts to meet essential health and safety requirements detailed in the Regulations. The Regulations do not address the two issues you raise.

In order for the UK to legislate in this matter HSE would need to either propose new legislation, which the Secretary of State would have to approve, or request the revised Lifts Directive include such provisions.

Any new UK legislation would need to be evidentially based to satisfy the Secretary of State and UK stakeholders. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is not aware of any previous incidents of this nature. We have also discussed the matter with the UK lift industry and key users and they are also unaware of any similar incidents. The HSE is therefore not proposing to introduce new UK legislation in this matter at this stage.

We propose two actions to raise awareness of the incident with relevant standard setting bodies, so that they can form a view on whether further action might be needed:

First, the HSE represents the UK at a European forum for lifts. This forum discusses issues across the lift industry and raises concerns that feed into future Directive revisions when they arise, for consideration. We will raise this incident as an issue for concern at the next planned

meeting in 2016, asking if other Member States have any experience of such incidents. This will also be very timely as the process to revise the Lift Directive is due to start next year.

Second, we will also ensure that this incident is raised with the relevant BSi committee at their next meeting. This committee also feeds relevant incidents into CEN, the European standards authority for the European Commission, for the consideration in future revision of the Lifts Directive.

As you no doubt appreciate, even if changes were to be agreed by these organisations, these would take time to happen. Additionally, if these matters were included in the revision they would only apply to new lifts placed on the market, not previously installed lifts unless they were substantially refurbished.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Judge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Dr Richard Judge
Chief Executive