

Plant – safety defects that prevent a lift from continuing operation >

This information bulletin has been produced to clarify the specific defects identified by a designated plant inspector during regular lift maintenance visits or annual inspections, which will require the lift to be taken out of service, and not put back into service until the defect/defects have been rectified.

Legislation

The [Work Health Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#) require lifts to comply to Australian Standard [AS1735](#) (lift code). Australian Standard 1735 sets the minimum standard that lifts are to be built to and maintained. Defects identified below are considered not to meet the minimum standard and can be life threatening to lift users.

Defects requiring lifts to be taken out of service

- **No lights in lift car and/or no emergency lights** - in the event of passengers becoming stuck in the lift it would be difficult or impossible to operate the emergency communication system to summon help.
- **No lighting (inadequate) in lift lobbies** - if no lighting on the landing a passenger exiting a lift may walk or trip over obstacles not seen. If a landing door to the lift was open and the lift was not at floor level a member of the public could easily walk into the lift shaft falling into the pit or onto the top of the lift car.
- **No emergency communication** - no alarm, phone, or either one not working - In the event of passengers becoming stuck in the lift it is essential that all means are available to contact the lift contractor to summons help.
- **Any exposed wiring in lift car or on landings, cover plates, indicators, or buttons** - electric shock or electrocution may result if cover plates are left off exposing wiring.
- **Door protection devices not operational** - passengers may receive severe blows to their body, crushing and or jamming between the doors if the protection device is not operational.
- **Any safety circuit switch not operational** – for example stop switch, door lock, trap door, overtravel switch, governor - safety gear etc – All safety circuit switches and striker mechanisms must be in correct adjustment to ensure the continued safe operation of a lift.

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Where safety circuit devices are found to be inoperative they must be corrected before the lift is allowed to go back into service.

If a safety device is found to be tampered with (short out) the lift is to be isolated and NT WorkSafe is to be notified immediately.

Defects to be reported

When the following defects are found they must be reported immediately to a designated plant inspector.

- **Water in lift pit** - (*whether it is leaking or has water in it*) – water in a lift pit has serious consequences in regard to electrics in the pit and shaft. Condensation/humidity from the water can cause corrosion to vital equipment and the safe operation of the lift may be effected depending on the depth of the water electric shock and or drowning could be the end result to a lift mechanic or passengers in the lift.
- **Water in machine room** - (*leaking into or in machine room*) - water leaking into a machine room can cause short circuiting electrical controller malfunctions and failures. These can result in passengers becoming stuck, unplanned movement of a lift in the shaft which could result in serious injuries to passengers. Electrical failures caused by water to control equipment can cause considerable expense and down time before a water effected lift by can be put back into service.
- **Hauling rope with broken strand or ropes with excessive breaks where a strand is likely to break** - apart from a broken strand bunching up and causing a bumpy ride in the lift car, there is a potential for the rope to break causing the lift to stop in between floors with passengers. In the event of all ropes breaking, a disaster could occur.
- **Landing doors that can be opened from outside without the use of a special key** - Where landing doors can be opened easily without a key, the potential exists for passengers to become stuck when the lift stops abnormally. There is also the chance of the person opening the landing doors to be struck by the lift if it is in the vicinity of the door being opened, or if the door is left open, people walking into the shaft may think the lift is at floor level.

References

Work Health Occupational Health and Safety Regulations

Australian Standard 1735 Lift Code.

NT WorkSafe >

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