

Lift Safety Policy



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Owner	Director of Housing
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Cabinet Approval	N/A

Name Deborah Fenton

Sign 

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1.0 Introduction and Objectives

- 1.1 As a landlord Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Council's (BMSDC) is responsible for maintenance and repairs to our homes, communal blocks and other buildings and assets we own and manage, some of which will contain domestic and commercial stairlifts, passenger lifts, goods lifts and other lifting equipment. We are responsible for maintaining these lifts and carrying out periodic thorough examinations to ensure they continue to operate safely.
- 1.2 The key objective of this policy is to ensure our Cabinet, Senior Leadership Team, employees, partners and tenants are clear on our legal and regulatory lift safety obligations. This policy provides the framework our staff and partners will operate within in order to meet these obligations.
- 1.3 This policy forms part of our wider organisational commitment to driving a health and safety culture amongst staff and contractors (as detailed within our Health and Safety Policy). It will be saved on our SharePoint and distributed to all relevant members of staff.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to:
- The housing assets which are owned by the Housing Revenue Account (the HRA) and any which are leased by the Council's and rented and managed as social housing stock. This includes domestic properties (houses and flats), communal areas of any blocks containing such properties, and sheltered and supported housing schemes and associated offices/communal spaces.
 - Any commercial premises which are owned by the HRA.
 - Any depots, operational and commercial buildings owned and / or managed by BMSDC.
- 2.2 The policy is relevant to all our employees, tenants, contractors, stakeholders and other persons who may work on, occupy, visit, or use our premises, or who may be affected by our activities or services.
- 2.3 The policy should be used by all to ensure they understand the obligations placed upon BMSDC to maintain a safe environment for tenants and employees within the home of each tenant, and within all communal areas of buildings and other properties we own and/or manage. Adherence to this policy is mandatory.
- 2.4 We own and manage domestic properties which have been adapted with living aids such as stair lifts, through floor lifts and hoists to enable tenants to continue to live

independently. We take responsibility for the lifts which have been installed within our domestic properties which we have installed directly. This policy does not encompass privately owned or installed lifts.

3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 BMSDC Cabinet has overall governance responsibility for ensuring this policy is fully implemented to ensure full compliance with legislation and regulatory standards. As such, the Director of Housing will formally approve this policy and review it every two years (or sooner if there is a change in legislation or regulation).
- 3.2 For assurance that this policy is operating effectively in practice, the Cabinet will receive regular updates on its implementation, lift safety performance and non-compliance.
- 3.3 The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will receive monthly performance reports in respect of lift safety and ensure compliance is being achieved. They will also be notified of any non-compliance issue identified.
- 3.4 The Director of Housing has strategic responsibility for the management of lift safety, and ensuring compliance is achieved and maintained. They will oversee the implementation of this policy.
- 3.5 The Head of Asset Investment and Compliance has operational responsibility for the management of lift safety and will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of these programmes.
- 3.6 Housing teams will provide support where gaining access to properties is difficult and will assist and facilitate any support or other tenancy management process as necessary, including to help gain access if this is difficult.

4.0 Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Standards

- 4.1 **Legislation** - The principal legislation applicable to this policy is as follows:
 - The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
 - The Lifting Operation and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER).
 - Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER).
- 4.2 **Approved Code of Practice (ACoP)**–The principal ACoP applicable to this policy is:
 - ACoP L113 - Safe use of lifting equipment: Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 2nd edition 2014 (with amendments 2018).

4.3 **Guidance** – The principal guidance applicable to this policy is as follows:

- INDG422 - Thorough examination of lifting equipment: A simple guide for employers (2008).
- INDG339 - Thorough examination and testing of lifts: Simple guidance for lift owners (2008).

4.4 **Regulatory Standards** – We must ensure we comply with the Regulator of Social Housing's regulatory framework and consumer standards for social housing in England; the Home Standard is the primary one applicable to this policy. The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 will change the way social housing is regulated and may result in future changes to this policy.

4.5 **Sanctions** – Failure to discharge our responsibilities and obligations properly could lead to sanctions, including: prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive (the HSE) under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; prosecution under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007; prosecution under LOLER or PUWER; and via a regulatory notice from the Regulator of Social Housing.

5.0 **Obligations**

5.1 **LOLER**

Passenger and stair lifts in workplaces and domestic properties which are used by people during their course of work or living accommodation, fall within the scope of LOLER.

LOLER requires landlords to maintain lifts and ensure that they have thorough examinations:

- Before use for the first time;
- After substantial and significant changes have been made;
- At least every six months if the lift is used at any time to carry people or every 12 months if the lift is only carrying loads (or in accordance with an examination scheme); and
- Following exceptional circumstances such as damage to, or failure of, the lift, long periods out of use, or a major change in operating conditions which is likely to affect the integrity of the equipment.
- Thorough examination reports must be kept for at least two years.

5.2 **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**

Section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act makes employers, such as landlords, responsible for the health and safety of employees and people using or visiting their premises, so far as reasonably practicable (including tenants).

For passenger lifts in communal blocks and for tenanted properties with domestic lifts and stairlifts, duties may be adequately discharged by adopting the same provisions as applies to all other lifting equipment covered by LOLER (carrying out regular maintenance and a six-monthly thorough examination).

5.3 **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)**

There is some overlap between LOLER and PUWER, which applies to all work equipment, including lifting equipment (such as hoists, lift trucks, elevating work platforms and lifting slings). The scope of this policy includes for lifts which are fixed within assets owned and managed by BMSDC (i.e., passenger/stairlifts/through floor lifts/goods lifts) and not mobile lifting equipment.

5.4 **Insurance**

Insurers may impose demands for similarly stringent levels of risk management to cover public liability.

6.0 **Statement of Intent**

6.1 We acknowledge and accept our responsibilities under the legislation outlined in Sections 4 and 5.

6.2 We will adopt the same principles to the management of lifts within communal blocks and domestic properties as for passenger lifts, goods lifts and any other lifts provided as work equipment. We will therefore carry out a programme of periodic servicing and maintenance and thorough examinations to lifts within domestic properties where these have been installed by us, or where our tenant has installed one and made us aware of it.

6.3 We will ensure all lifting equipment is subject to a thorough examination before being commissioned into use for the first time.

6.4 All lifting equipment will be subject to a periodic thorough examination and routine servicing and maintenance.

6.5 All lifts or stairlifts that we install, through floor lifts and hoists to enable tenants to continue to live independently in properties we own or manage will be fully

accessible for disabled users, as per the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, and to the specifications outlined in Part M of the Building Regulations 2004.

- 6.6 We own and manage domestic properties which have been adapted with living aids such as stair lifts, through floor lifts and hoists to enable tenants to continue to live independently.
- 6.7 We will endeavour to ensure that all lifting equipment will be in full working order at all times. Where we become aware of a breakdown, we will ensure our lift contractor attends within four hours between the hours of 08:00 to 17:00 and six hours between the hours of 17:00 to 08:00.
- 6.8 We will operate robust processes to deal with entrapment situations. In the event of any persons becoming trapped in a lift we are responsible for, our lift contractor will endeavour to attend within one hour.
- 6.9 We will operate a robust process to manage and rectify immediately dangerous situations identified during a lift safety check or any other maintenance work.
- 6.10 All passenger lifts will have an intercom that dials directly to a dedicated call centre. Call handlers will contact emergency services if there is an urgent concern for a person's welfare.
- 6.11 When a void property has a domestic stairlift, we will determine whether it is to be retained for use by the next tenant. If not, the stairlift will be removed by the void manager and also removed as a component from our management system. If the lift is retained, it will have a service visit when the property is re-let to ensure it is safe and working correctly at the point the new tenancy commences. The new tenant will also be shown how to operate the lift safely. If the thorough examination is due before the new tenancy commences, we will also ensure this is carried out.
- 6.12 We will operate a robust process to gain access to properties to undertake thorough examinations, lift safety/servicing visits and follow-on works. In the case of access for domestic stairlifts, where resident vulnerability issues are known or identified we will ensure we safeguard the wellbeing of the resident, whilst ensuring we can gain timely access to any property in order to be compliant with this policy.
- 6.13 We will operate effective contract management arrangements with the contractors responsible for delivering the service, including; ensuring contracts/service level agreements are in place, conducting client-led performance meetings, and ensuring that contractors' employee and public liability insurances are up to date on an annual basis.
- 6.14 We will establish and maintain a risk assessment for lift safety management and operations, setting out our key lift safety risks and appropriate mitigations.

- 6.15 To comply with the requirements of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM), a Construction Phase Plan will be in place for all repairs work to void and tenanted properties (at the start of the contract and reviewed/updated annually thereafter), component replacement works and refurbishment projects. This plan will detail what is required to reinstate lifts affected by the works, to ensure they are safe to use and continue to comply with relevant legislation.
- 6.16 We will ensure there is a robust process in place to investigate and manage all RIDDOR notifications made to the HSE in relation to lift safety, and we will take action to ensure any issues identified and lessons we have learned to prevent a similar incident occurring again.

7.0 Programmes

- 7.1 **Thorough examination (LOLER)** – all lifting equipment, including domestic lifts, will be subject to a thorough examination:
- Before being commissioned into use for the first time;
 - Every six months if the lift is being used to carry people – this includes passenger lifts and domestic stairlifts; Or every 12 months if the lift does not carry people;
 - If the lift has been out of use for 21 days or more;
 - In accordance with an examination scheme (as prepared by a competent person) where there is one in place; or
 - In accordance with our insurer's specification (if more frequent).
- 7.2 **Maintenance (Service Agreement)** - All lifting equipment will be subject to routine servicing and maintenance in line with manufacturers' recommendations and/or any examination scheme.
- Every 2 months in the case of passenger lifts
 - Every 12 months and at change of Occupancy in the case of Stairlifts
- 7.3 We will ensure there is a robust process in place for the management of any follow-up works required following the completion of a thorough examination or servicing and maintenance inspection (where the work cannot be completed at the time of the examination or servicing/inspection).

8.0 Data and Records

- 8.1 We will maintain a core asset register of all properties we own or manage, setting out which properties have lifts which require a thorough examination. We will also set out which properties have lifts which require ongoing servicing and maintenance.

This register will also hold data against each property asset of the type, age and condition of lifting equipment in place.

- 8.2 We will operate a robust process to manage all changes to our assets, including property acquisitions and disposals, to ensure that properties are not omitted from lift safety programmes and the programme remains up to date.
- 8.3 We will hold records of the following against all properties on each programme:
- Thorough examination dates and reports;
 - Servicing and maintenance dates and reports;
 - Any examination schemes in place;
 - Evidence of completed remedial works; and
 - Entrapment incidents.
- 8.4 All records and data as outlined above will be stored in Share Point or on our Open Housing System and/or TMC (Total Mobile Connect).
- 8.5 Where we install any stairlifts or other lifts to domestic properties or give approval for or become aware of any installation of such lifts, we will add them to the thorough examination and servicing programmes.
- 8.6 We will keep all records for at least five years or for the duration that we own and manage the property/in line with our document retention policy and have robust processes and controls in place to maintain appropriate levels of security for all lift safety related data and records.

9.0 Tenant Engagement

- 9.1 We consider good communication essential in the effective delivery of lift safety programmes, therefore we will establish a resident engagement strategy and communication programme this will support tenants in their understanding of lift safety, advise them of how they can keep themselves and other tenants safe, and encourage them to report any lift safety concerns.
- 9.2 This will assist us in maximising access to carry out periodic servicing and thorough examinations, encourage tenants to report any lift safety concerns, and help us to engage with vulnerable and hard to reach tenants.
- 9.3 We will share information clearly and transparently and will ensure that information is available to tenants via regular publications and information on our website. We will aim to successfully engage with vulnerable and hard to reach tenants. We will

share information clearly and transparently and will ensure that information is available to tenants via regular publications and information on our website

10.0 Competent Persons

10.1 The Mechanical and Electrical Manager will undertake appropriate training, such as the Lift and Escalator Industry Association (LEIA) Practical Management of a Lift/Escalator Contract, Level 4 VRQ Diploma in Asset and Building Management or equivalent, to ensure lift safety programmes are managed effectively. If they do not have these already, they will obtain them within 24 months of the approval of this policy.

10.2 The Approved Code of Practice for LOLER states:

You should ensure that the person carrying out a thorough examination has such appropriate practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of the lifting equipment to be thoroughly examined as will enable them to detect defects or weaknesses and to assess their importance in relation to the safety and continued use of the lifting equipment.

10.3 Therefore, only suitably competent lift consultants and contractors, registered with the Lift and Escalator Industry Association (or equivalent), will be appointed to undertake thorough examinations, risk assessments, prepare examination schemes and undertake lifting equipment works.

10.4 We will check that our contractors hold the relevant qualifications and accreditations when we procure them, and thereafter on an annual basis; we will evidence these checks and each contractor's certification appropriately.

11.0 Training

11.1 We will deliver training on this policy and the procedures that support it, through appropriate methods including: team briefings; basic lift safety awareness training; and on the job training for those delivering the programme of lift inspections, planned maintenance and repair works as part of their daily job. All training undertaken by staff will be formally recorded.

12.0 Performance Reporting

12.1 We will report robust key performance indicator (KPI) measures for lift safety. These will be provided to SLT monthly and to the Cabinet on a quarterly basis. As a minimum, we will report:

Data – the total number of:

- Properties – split by category (domestic, communal blocks and other properties);
- Properties on the thorough examination programme;
- Properties not on the thorough examination;
- Properties with a valid and in date thorough examination;
- Properties without a valid and in date thorough examination;
- Properties due to be examined within the next 30 days; and
- Completed, in-time and overdue follow-up works/actions arising from the programme (split by priority).

Narrative - an explanation of the:

- Current position;
- Corrective action required;
- Anticipated impact of corrective actions; and
- Progress with completion of follow-up works.

In addition:

- The number of entrapments within lifts (in month and year to date).
- The number of RIDDOR notifications to the HSE with regards to lift safety.
- Domestic lift servicing programme.

13.0 Quality Assurance

- 13.1 We will ensure there is programme of annual third-party quality assurance audits of services to lifts that are not included on the thorough examination programme.
- 13.2 We will carry out an independent audit of lift safety at least once every two years, to specifically test for compliance with legal and regulatory obligations and to identify non-compliance issues for correction.

14.0 Significant Non-Compliance and Escalation

- 14.1 Our definition of significant non-compliance is: any incident which has the potential to result in a material breach of legislation or regulatory standard, or which causes a risk to health or safety. All non-compliance issues will be reported and escalated as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours after the incident occurred, or of a BMSDC employee becoming aware of it.
- 14.2 Any non-compliance issue identified at an operational level will be formally reported to the Head of Asset Investment and Compliance in the first instance, who will agree

an appropriate course of corrective action, this will be escalated to the Director of Housing and will report details of the same to the Senior Leadership Team, BMSDC Monitoring Officer and the Portfolio Holder if necessary. The Director of Housing will report details of the same to the Senior Leadership Team, BMSDC Monitoring Officer and the Portfolio Holder.

- 14.3 Senior leadership team will ensure that Cabinet are made aware of any non-compliance issue, so they can consider the implications and act as appropriate.
- 14.4 In cases of serious non-compliance, the Portfolio Holder and Senior Leadership Team will consider whether it is necessary to disclose the issue to the Regulator of Social Housing as required by the regulatory framework, or any other relevant organisation such as the Health and Safety Executive. In such instances, the issue will also be reported to Cabinet.

15.0 Glossary

- 15.1 This glossary defines key terms used throughout this policy:
- **Examination scheme** – LOLER permits a scheme of examination (examination scheme), drawn up by a competent person, as an alternative to the fixed maximum periods of a thorough examination.
 - **IOSH Managing Safely course** - The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) have designed the IOSH Managing Safely course for managers and supervisors of organisations in virtually all industry sectors, in order to give them all they need to know to effectively manage health and safety in the workplace.
 - **LEIA** – The Lift and Escalator Industry Association is the trade association and advisory body for the lift and escalator industry.
 - **Thorough examination** - A systematic and detailed examination of the equipment and safety-critical parts, carried out at specified intervals by a competent person who must then complete a written report.

Appendix 1- Additional Legislation

This policy also operates within the context of the following legislation:

- Housing Act 2004
- Landlord and Tenant Act 1985
- Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018
- Building Regulations 2010 – Part M
- Workplace (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Occupiers' Liability Act 1984
- Equality Act 2010
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Awaab's Law

Version	Date	Author	Rationale
1.0	30/01/2024	C.Solomons	Sign off
1.1	01/06/2024	C.Solomons	Changes to competent persons qualification timeline from 12 to 24 months. 10.1
2.0	December 2025	C. Solomons	Biennial review in line with procedure changes.
2.1	June 2026	Dawn Lack	Review to ensure domestic and stairlifts included in policy.