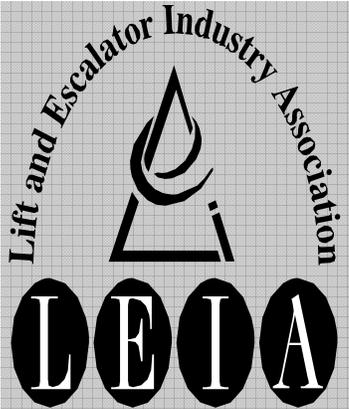




Are You Aware (41)

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QUALITY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Lifting Operation and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) and its implications for Lifting Platforms, Inclined Lifting Platforms, Stair Lifts etc.

There appears to be some doubt as to whether LOLER applies to lifting platforms, inclined lifting platforms, stair lifts and similar products. The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulation (PUWER) requires that equipment used at work is subjected to LOLER type inspections to ensure it is safe.

LOLER therefore applies to any lifting device, product or equipment used for lifting if the equipment is provided as **work equipment**. Where the equipment is used to lift persons, LOLER demands more frequent inspections of the equipment.

It does not matter what the equipment was designed for, but where and how it is being used. In other words, if it was designed for a goods only application but is used by members of staff, it is work equipment.

For LOLER to strictly apply, two requirements must be satisfied:-

- 1: **the equipment is being used as work equipment**
- 2: **it is being used to lift or suspend a load.**

Examples of a Lifting platform being work equipment are:-

- a) installation in a public house used to raise, lower or move barrels.
- b) Installations used to move goods or staff in a school, factory, care home or office.

Examples where Lifting products are not covered by LOLER include:-

- a) use in a private home by the owner.
- b) use in a hotel, restaurant, shop or other location where its use is restricted to providing disabled access for members of the public.

Where LOLER applies, equipment for lifting persons is required to be inspected by a competent person ever 6 months, or 12 months if lifting goods only. These periods of inspection can be varied if the competent person decides a different, more appropriate period is justified.

Note that inspections by a competent person as required under LOLER are not part of maintenance and maintenance is not a substitute for LOLER inspections.

It should be remembered that if LOLER does not apply, The Health and Safety at Work Act does. This requires all equipment to be safe and the best way of achieving this is to have LOLER type examinations conducted.