

The New Zealand LIFT FAX

The New Zealand Lift Fax is produced bi-monthly for the NZ lift industry. Just send your email address to LEC to subscribe.

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WHAT'S GOING UP or DOWN THIS MONTH:

THE QUICK WAY DOWN:

Sadly in early April 2011, a young lad in Auckland ended up in hospital with serious leg and back injuries after he jumped over the balustrade of an escalator of the Westfield downtown mall in Auckland, after the falling 2 stories of the atrium to the tiled floor below.

It seems after nonchalantly trying to walk out of the Warehouse store with a borrowed pair of white skate shoes, upon being spotted and held by security staff he made a break for it, but in trying to negotiating an up escalator, decided the route was quicker to exit over the balustrade.

He was sobbing and really scared after being found conscious and with multiple injuries.

GIRL FALLS FROM MICHIGAN ESCALATOR:



A 16-year-old girl was injured after falling over a railing at the top of an escalator in a Portage, Michigan, shopping mall on March 30. A police representative stated that the girl was riding on the rail of the unit before falling. The incident was ruled accidental, and the resulting injuries were not serious.

GRACE WESOLOWSKI RETURNS TO THE FOLD:

As of the 9th of May 2011, Grace Wesolowski came out from the cold and succumbed to the disease by returning to her roots in the lift industry. With a tinge of loss for us on this side of the ditch, Grace begins a role in modernisation in Sydney back with Schindler Australia. All is not lost though, as Greg Brown and Grace will retain their property in Auckland and commute as necessary, probably like my daughter on her Jetstar weekends away from Melbourne to ChCh. All the best Grace!

EDITORIAL:

RISK BASED CONSENT:

Our Government Ministers are once again through press releases, promoting the **Licensed Practitioner Scheme (LBP)** scheme as the forth partner in the Building Act, along with the DBH (Govt) – TA's – Building Owners, the LBP's are to ensure the processes of Consent are attained through being able to sign off work as compliant to the Building Act.

To complement this, the Government has also expanded Schedule 1 identifying building work that **does not require Consent**, by producing a guide to exemptions for **Platforms(Decks)** and **Improving Access for people with Disabilities** etc. (see pg 2 article)

Admittedly the LBP structure has been evolving to fill this void since 2004, and still has to tackle certification structures for building trades employing **specified systems** such as lifts, but is it just creating more confusion than efficiency?

Rather than exempting parts of the Consent process which seems to even cover **specified systems**: which is critical to ensuring a **consistent and safe means of compliance and documenting** of any specified system solution, the Government should have attacked the concerns over Consent, and that is how the process is being used by some TA's as a honey pot, and others as a tool to offset their inefficient Consent practises.

It has been widely reported that Consent costs for the same work in differing areas can vary 5 times as much, with council representatives justifying their excessive costs as in the interests of their wider community.

To keep Consent cost real, Consent costs need to be related to the task, and more so where a LBP is employed. TA Consent costs should be kept at a minimum, and not used as an underhand means of supporting other council functions.

Specified systems need a high degree of specific expertise to evaluate, test and document to ensure safe practises are maintained in installation and when equipment is placed into service, and a single consistent and unambiguous process where costs reflect the task involved, is the means of achieving this, **not exempting Consent for Specified Systems**. Ed.

VIRTUAL ELEVATOR EVENT:

Elevator World's free annual online tradeshow and conference is due to be held on June 1st 2011 at 6am until 4pm central standard time in the US. I equate that to be around:-
11pm on the 2nd of June to 9am on the 3rd of June in NZ.

Now you can wander on at any time as long as you have pre-registered through the link-

<https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=registration.jsp&eventid=279918&sessionId=1&key=1BAD733AC78B5FF48B87BB1F79495FC&sourcepage=register>

For a complete list of the speakers, topics and times in US Central time, follow this link to a PDF of the agenda:-
<http://elevatorworld.com/vee/agenda.pdf>

You can also access E-data on lift equipment from the range of suppliers supporting the event, so ensure you have an early night to be online for this historical lift industry event.

THAT IQP WORD:

We all have pet frustrations, but if you want to ring my bell, just call a lift inspector in NZ who is commissioning a new lift installation under a CONSENT an IQP, as invariably I see written and hear spoken by people identifying persons accepted as competent to certify lift new installations. Under the Building Act the IQP is a person who carries out WOF inspections ONLY, and so should not be used as a general term to identify independent qualified persons, unless you wish to confuse, or of more concern deceive. This concern is compounded when independent Level 1 CBIP inspectors who are qualified to carry out WOF inspections, are also being used by the industry to certify new lift installation which is outside their expertise.

CURIOUS COMMENT ON PLATFORM COMPLIANCE

The Government in its more efficient Building Act reforms, has published a document titled; **The Guide to Building Work That Does Not Require A Building Consent:**

Specifically it details a series of exemptions with two clauses of interest relating to:- **1. Platforms (Decks).**

Exemption (g) and (ga) of schedule 1 states:

A building consent is not required for the following building work:

- (g) the construction or alteration of any platform, bridge, or the like from which it is not possible to fall more than 1 meter even if it collapses.
- (ga) the construction or alteration of any platform, bridge or the like from which it is not possible for a fall more than 1.5 meters even if it collapses.

Under:- 2. Improving Access for People with Disabilities.

A building consent is not required for the following building work:

- (af) the alteration of an entrance or an internal doorway of a dwelling to improve access for persons with disabilities, if compliance with the building code relating to structure stability is not reduced.

These seems pretty straight forward , except the document gives examples of where the exemption could apply, and one of the examples given for (af) of where an exemption could apply details the following:

- ? **Installation of an electric platform lift at the entrance to a dwelling.**



Now if you interpret these words as others have done, you may consider that an installation of an electric platform that travels no more than 1.5m is exempt from consent, not

withstanding, any solution still has to be compliant with the Building Code or D2 as a means of mechanical access into a building.

The basic premise of the Building Act and specifically for **specified systems** of which any **means for mechanical access into any building** is, is to ensure any solution is safe.

What this interpretation misses, is that this area of exemption relates to **the danger of falling from ramp or decks**, and accepts that the danger of injury is less up to 1.5m high, and therefore as long as the ramp is constructed and checked by a LBP as compliant, there is no need to submit a Consent, which is sensible.

A means of mechanical access or use of a platform lift on the other hand is a suitable substitution for a ramp, as they are usually designed to inhibit falling, but if they don't go through the consent process, they would not end up on a compliance schedule, nor be confirmed as a safe solution under the present processes. And so we will be going back further than we have since the Building Act was introduced, in aiming to ensure these units are safely installed into all environments.

This is not to say that these units could not be self inspected where the manufacturers and supplier agents installers are confirmed as competent to install the units and have demonstrated sound practices of installation, testing, risk analysis of the environment in which they are installed, and then suitably documenting the installation for a compliance schedule, owner and or industry record.



But until the Consent process is clear throughout NZ through adopting consistent compliance processes and review of qualifications nationally, there is no evidence to show installers are competent to do this, only the deaths and injuries to users that result.



As per the editorial, it is not the Consent we need to exempt for specified systems where used as a means of mechanical access into buildings, no matter how simple they may seem, or just because they are more able to be relocated, just employ a simpler Consent process at a more appropriate cost to achieve the purpose, and retain the safe environment for use.

CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE UPDATE:

<http://www.christchurchquakemap.co.nz>

The demolition has begun, both in the central city and south eastern suburbs of Christchurch where most of the structural damage to buildings occurred.



The east and northeast suburbs were mostly effected by liquefaction and this is where most of the damage to the sewerage system occurred, including to the

main treatment plant in Bromley near the estuary.

Meetings have been organized by the Council in the main affected areas to inform the local community as to the status of their areas and to provide points where key players such as insurance



representatives met with peoples to hear their concerns. In the end there was general agreement that it's the land first and then the houses, where decisions are needed in this area.

At the end of April the State of Emergency was removed handing over the next phase of rebuilding to a newly formed Government body known as CERA, (**Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority**), which is headed by a local senior government minister, Jerry Brownlee.

The key aim of this body as I understand it is:-

- ? Providing leadership and coordination for the ongoing recovery effort.
- ? Focusing on business recovery, restoring local communities and making sure the right structures are in place.
- ? Enabling and effective and timely rebuilding.
- ? Working closely with Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council and Waimakariri DC and Environmental Canterbury and engaging with local communities of greater Christchurch, including Ngai Tahu (local Maori representation), and the private and business sector.
- ? Keeping people and communities informed.

A Red cordon still exists in the central business district of Christchurch where many lifts are still in an unknown state, but this is gradually being eased as each area is being opened up following demolition of many unsafe structures. Concerns are already beginning to arise as insurers and building owners go into dispute over the question of demolition or repair.

STREET RENAMED TO HONOR ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTOR:

On April 21, the corner of 27th Street and 47th Avenue in Long Island City, New York, was renamed Chuck Costello 9/11 Memorial Way. The naming honors Costello, an elevator constructor and 16-year member of the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Local One, who lost his life in the September 11, 2001, attacks. It is reported that Costello died while trying to help others escape the burning towers. The renaming took place across the street from the IUEC headquarters.

OTIS REPORT ON EARTHQUAKE ENTRAPMENTS:

Smartplanet reported that Otis entirely avoided trapped or injured passengers in its elevators after the March 11 9.0-magnitude earthquake and aftershocks in Japan thanks to seismic detectors. The company has 80,000 elevators and 2,400 employees in Japan. It took 13,000 calls at its 21 call centers in the 48 hours following the initial shock, and 16,700 elevators were shut down as a result of the tremor. Of that number, 16,400 were restarted in seven days. The detectors are credited for sensing that a quake was occurring, then moving the cars to the ground floor, where passengers could exit. The units then remained out of service until inspected.

CHINA, INDIA ELEVATOR DEMAND:

With booming infrastructure projects in China and India, both countries currently have an increasing demand for elevators. According to Otis, the company expects to produce 70,000 units for India over the next three years, a large number when compared to the 6,000 units it manufactured in 2010. China's annual elevator market accounts for 285,000 units of the global 500,000 units. KONE has also announced large scale elevator and escalator projects throughout China.

SCHINDLER PARTNERS WITH SOLAR IMPULSE:

Schindler has partnered with Solar Impulse, a zero-fuel airplane propelled by solar energy. In 2010, the prototype airplane made the first 26-hour flight without fuel. With Schindler coming onboard at the outset of the construction of the second prototype plane, the project is on course to meet its challenge of flying around the world with no fuel in 2014.

DUMBWAITER PULLS WAITRESS DOWN SHAFT:

On March 4, an Oklahoma City waitress fell down the dumbwaiter shaft at the restaurant in which she was working. The 21 year old was taken to the hospital but succumbed to her injuries. Investigators believe the waitress was loading or unloading the dumbwaiter when it suffered a mechanical malfunction, fell to the ground and pulled her with it. A full investigation of the accident is underway. OSHA is also expected to conduct an investigation.

TL JONES SUPPLIES DMRC:

TL Jones has supplied 185 elevator light curtains and 555 dot-matrix displays to the Delhi Metro Rail Corp. (DMRC) in India. The passenger safety and information products are fitted to elevators supplied by KONE and Johnson Lifts. Each elevator features Pana40 3D light curtains and three PD3001 LED displays. Benefits of the Pana40 3D include increased passenger safety, improved traffic flow and reduced collisions between trolleys or wheelchairs and the elevator doors.

TODDLER INJURED IN ESCALATOR INCIDENT:

On February 1, a 17-month-old boy's finger was severed as a result of it being caught between the comb and groove of the step tread near the bottom of the escalator he was riding in a Los Angeles courthouse. The boy was hospitalized, but no further details have been released.

CORONERS HEARING:

I had the opportunity to sit in the Coroners Court in early April and hear the lessons learnt from the death of the Otis employee, Dave Shaw's accident in Edendale in August 2009, located just south of Gore in the South island of NZ. Unfortunately I have been asked by the Coroner to delay expressing my experiences until his deliberation is given, which is due to be handed down sometime in May 2011.



GORE Coroners Court

What I can say, is that this has been a long and drawn out process since Dave's accident in August 2009, and unless someone outside the process or system gathers the facts and makes public comment, I'm pretty sure little would be learnt by other than those directly involved, if the status quo remains in place.

For this reason, once the conclusions are handed down by the Coroner and the documents cleared, I will issue a comprehensive report on the process; detail some of the evidence given, and add my conclusions in the hope we can all learn, and Dave's death was not in vain.



The New Edendale Fontera Factory April 2011

In meeting Dave's parents and brother, it was obvious they will not be at ease until all the facts, and not just the opinions and formal statements issued are presented and openly published, so that their understandable deep loss can begin to be addressed. And so hopefully the Coroner will take this all into account and assist what peace of mind can be achieved, and it can happen.

So until this transpires, bear with this added delay in the hope that knowledge will be unclouded and we can learn and move on, and maybe we will be able to remember Dave Shaw's accident as a turning point in accident investigation in NZ.

SMALLER PLATFORM LIFT SUPPLIERS ENTERING AND SERVING THE NZ MARKET:

A couple smaller and emerging platform lift suppliers came to my attention of late, demonstrating the increased demand in this market both for disabled access and domestic installation.

The first is a well established hydraulic hoist supplier in :-
SUPREME HOISTS (NZ) Ltd
& **Atrium Lift Co. of New Zealand.**

Ted Heath is your contact as below and he and his staff bring a wide engineering pedigree to any solution specializing in vehicle hoists, car stacking systems and mobile lifting hoists as well as a range of lift solutions including platform lifts.



www.supremehoists.co.nz

Supreme Hoists (NZ) Ltd
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Email: info@supremehoists.co.nz

The second is a new entrant to the market who not only wishes to provide a more up-market platform lift solution, but also provides well documented sales, installation, and compliance documentation on his product.

Dean Welton is the director of:-
ABODE ELEVATORS in Tauranga.

He specializes in the Water Hydraulic Platform Lift and though it looks very familiar to the industry stalwart Access

Elevators *Magic Carpet* solution, I'm assured from Dean that his solution is *Lifting the Standard*.



I'm also sure the market will decide, as value for money in the end no matter the solution, is the strongest determiner.

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