



Lift & Escalator Owner News

Subject: Fire resistant lift landing entrances tested to BS EN 81-58

To meet building regulations guidance and British Standards to prevent the spread of fire via a lift well, those responsible for building design and construction typically specify lift landing entrances to EN 81-58 with a minimum fire resistance (expressed as “E” for integrity and a time in minutes – such as “E30”, “E60” etc).

EN 81-58 is the designated standard for fire testing lift landing entrances and specifies a standard method for testing from the landing side only with the lift landing entrance installed in a masonry, blockwork or concrete construction as defined in EN 81-58 Annex B.

Fire certification is typically produced based on underlying fire test data of lift landing entrances tested in one of the wall constructions detailed in EN 81-58 Annex B and is applicable to any/all of those wall constructions. If the fire test method in EN 81-58 is applied to lift landing entrances in a different supporting wall construction than those defined in Annex B, then the test results are restricted to that specific wall construction.

As part of their builders work requirements, the lift provider typically reflects details of how the lift landing entrance was incorporated into the surrounding wall for testing and certification including:

- structural opening dimensions, and dimensions of the lift landing entrance;
- drawing of the landing entrance installed in the surrounding wall.

Those responsible for building design and construction are then responsible for the lift well wall construction and incorporating the lift landing entrance in accordance with the lift provider’s builders work requirements.

Where the construction of the lift well entrance wall deviates from the requirements of EN 81-58, Annex B (e.g. alternative building materials used such as CLT, dry-lining, steel, etc.) or from the lift provider’s requirements (e.g. oversized structural opening, or gaps due to construction deviations), those responsible for building design and construction should:

- consult with the lift provider to see if fire certification exists for the wall construction,
- take any further measures necessary including making good or fire-stopping (for which the lift provider would not usually be responsible),

to satisfy themselves that the incorporation of the lift landing entrance is adequate to meet the overall building fire protection requirements.

Any new or additional fire testing of lift landing entrances in supporting constructions other than masonry, blockwork or concrete is a complex, costly and prolonged process, with no guarantee that it would achieve the required fire resistance.

Note: Installation of lift landing entrances to manufacturer’s instructions is covered by lift installation qualifications and does not require any qualifications in passive fire protection. Passive fire protection schemes and qualifications may be required for making good and fire stopping as part of the wall construction.

As part of a lift provider’s Declaration of Conformity (DoC) for a completed new lift including EN 81-58, we recommend lift providers add the following to their DoC:

“NOTE: EN 81-58 - The lift landing entrances have a fire resistance test certificate/report in accordance with EN 81-58. Other building standards (outside the lift installer responsibility under the Lifts Regulations) are applicable to the fire resistance of the lift well walls, and the interfacing of the lift landing entrances (including any fire stopping).”