

Property owners or persons who have the responsibility of managing property (Duty holders) have a legal responsibility to ensure that their premises are free from risks to the safety and health of persons so far as is reasonably practicable. Inadequately maintained hoists and lifts constitute a major safety and health concern which could result in malfunctioning units that could lead to injury.

INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

- All hoists and lifts must be of good mechanical construction, sound material, adequate strength and be properly maintained.
- All hoists and lifts must be thoroughly examined by a Competent Person prior to being put into service and thereafter at intervals of 12 months.
- All hoist and lifts must be operated, serviced and maintained according to appropriate manufacturer's requirements.

MAXIMUM WORKING LOAD

- The maximum working load must be conspicuously displayed in clear legible writing.

GENERAL SAFETY FEATURES

- There must be sufficient automatic devices provided and maintained to prevent the cage or platform from over-running.
- The cage must be fitted with a gate on each side providing access to a landing.
- All gates must be constructed and designed as not to render users liable to injury.
- Gates must be fitted with a device to prevent the cage or platform from moving away from the landing until the gate is closed and comes to rest when the gate is opened.
- An audible emergency signal that is operated from inside the cage and clearly audible outside the hoistway or liftway or, a telephone and notice posted to inform passengers of the number to be dialed in the event of an emergency must be installed in the carriage.

PASSENGER CARRYING HOISTS

- Must be equipped with at least 2 ropes or chains separately connected with the platform or cage, each capable of carrying the entire weight of the cage together with its maximum working load.
- Must be equipped with efficient devices, capable of supporting the platform or cage with its maximum working load in the event of a breakage of the ropes or chains or any of their attachments.
- Motor rooms should contain only elevator related equipment.
- Lift ways should contain only elevator related utilities.

ROLE OF THE DUTY HOLDER

The duty holder has the responsibility of ensuring that the hoist or lift is safe to use and that it has been thoroughly examined. These responsibilities also include

- Informing the Competent Person of any changes in the operating conditions which may affect their assessment.
- Making relevant information available for the Competent Person such as manufacturer's instructions and maintenance records.
- Keeping and maintaining accurate records of examinations conducted by Competent and Authorized Persons.
- Acting promptly to remedy any defects that arise during operation or during inspections.

ACTION FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF DEFECTS

Upon the notification of a serious defect, the lift must be immediately taken out of service until the problem is rectified.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adequate access for relevant personnel to elevator machine rooms must be provided and maintained.
- Special attention must be placed on the inspection of the elevator safety gears.
- Elevators must be kept in a clean state.
- Elevator machine rooms must be kept in a clean state and contain adequate lighting
- Designated persons should be trained in basic elevator rescue procedures.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SECTION

Requirements and General Recommendations for the Operation of Hoists and Lifts



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LABOUR DEPARTMENT- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH SECTION

Promoting the attainment and maintenance of desirable standards of occupational safety and health practice in Barbados