

## Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people

BS8300: 2001 is a Code of Practice and was published by the British Standards Institution on 31 October 2001. It is an important document and is intended to meet the needs of disabled and handicapped persons, which we all can become as a result of an accident, a sports injury or just plain *anno domini*. The COP is some 170 pages packed full of very valuable information, almost a text book, although not intended as such. For example there are 74 figures and 30 tables.

Sections include: arrival by vehicle and on foot; entering the building; horizontal and vertical circulation; assembly areas; facilities such as communications and storage. A range of building types are covered from commercial (offices), institutional (prisons) and residential (your dwelling).

The guidance and recommendations contained in BS8300: 2001 should be followed, not just to obey any regulations, such as the Disabilities Discrimination Act: 1995, but because it represents good practice for everyone able-bodied or disabled.

Section 2 of Guide D published by the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers deals with circulation. BS8300 confirms much of the practice mentioned there. If you are interested in what people do when they encounter lifts, escalators and passenger conveyors read Section 8: Vertical circulation. Here lifts, including stair lifts (8.4) and escalators and passenger conveyors (8.5) are discussed. Nothing contentious here as EN81, BS6440, BS5776 and EN115 are cited as the safety standards. If the requirements of the DDA are followed proper provision will be made. Do contact *GBA* if you need help.

### Recent BSI Publications

BS7255: 2001  
"Safe working on lifts"  
BS EN13015: 2001  
"Maintenance for lifts and escalators— Rules for maintenance instructions"

### Remote alarms: prEN81-28

When trapped in a lift, you can now be rescued "within the shortest possible time". This is an improvement on the three days previously suggested in earlier drafts. Now what does "shortest possible time" mean? In the UK a major retailer was fined £4,000 for trapping a woman for 11 hours and a corporation was found to be exercising due diligence for rescuing a man after 40 minutes. Maybe three hours under normal circumstances might be acceptable?

### BSI Drafts for Public Comment

prEN81-73  
"Behaviour of lifts in the event of fire"  
prEN81-80  
"Improvement of existing lifts"  
prEN12015  
"EMC - Emission" to replace EN12015: 1998  
prEN12016  
"EMC - Immunity" to replace EN12016: 1998  
EN81-1/2:1998/prA1  
"Programmable electronic safety systems in safety related applications for lifts (PESSRAL)"

### Items in the pipeline

ISO/DIS 18738 "Measurement of lift ride quality"  
prEN81-28 "Remote alarms"  
Major amendments to Machinery Directive  
Some amendments to Lifts Directive (limit of travel and use)  
BS7801 "Safe working on escalators" (revision)