
Specification for **Powered stairlifts**

Spécification des monte personnes d'escalier à moteur

Spezifikation für motorbetriebene Treppenschrägaufzüge

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Mechanical Engineering Standards Committee.

It is intended that equipment manufactured according to the requirements of this standard is for use on a stairway within, or an internal stairway giving access to, a private dwelling; in suitable circumstances, it may be used in a residential home (defined in 3.24 of this standard) or similar establishment. The equipment will be capable of being operated in a normal domestic environment (as regards temperature and humidity); additional features will be necessary in more rigorous conditions.

It is assumed that a stairlift complying with the requirements of this standard will be used only by a person either capable of using it safely and unaided after having been fully instructed in its use or, if not so capable, who only uses it when adequately attended by an

able-bodied person fully instructed in the safe and proper use of the equipment.

Appendix A is included to assist potential purchasers by highlighting various important aspects that should be investigated when considering the installation of a stairlift for a specific user. This appendix also gives guidance on the provision of operating instructions for the user, the services that should be provided and the considerations arising from changes of user or use.

Additional information about stairlifts is available from a number of sources, including the Disabled Living Foundation and similar information services, and local authority social services departments.

Two related British Standards for similar devices for use by disabled persons in private dwellings are BS 5900 and BS 5965.



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Specification for powered stairlifts

Revised text

AMD 6523
December 1990

Contents

In the list of appendices insert the following:
'D. Guidelines for the installation of stairlifts in premises other than private dwellings'.

AMD 6523
December 1990

Foreword

In paragraph 2, lines 4, 5 and 6 delete 'in suitable circumstances, it may be used in a residential home (defined in 3.24 of this standard) or similar establishment' and substitute the following:
'in suitable circumstances, it may be used by disabled persons in commercial or other premises, provided the recommendations given in appendix D are adopted.'

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Clause 1. Scope

In paragraph 2, lines 4 and 5 delete 'supported by guidance given in appendix A' and substitute the following:
'supported by the guidance given in appendix C and the guidelines given in appendix D.'

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Clause 3.19 private dwelling

Delete the existing text and substitute the following:
'**3.19 private dwelling.** A self-contained single-family dwelling having one or more storeys or levels, and has its own main entrance door situated at ground level or at any level that serves as ground level.'

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Clause 3.21 rails

Delete 'bars' from line 1.

AMD 6523
December 1990

New clause

Insert the following new clause following clause 4.4 (inserted in AMD 4027):
'**4.5 Pattern of use.** The design of the stairlift shall take account of the pattern of use to which it will be subjected, e.g. the length of travel and the anticipated frequency of use.'

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Clause 5.3 Obstruction

In the Note, line 3 delete '1976' and in line 6 delete 'Part H' and substitute 'current edition'. Also in the final line delete 'Part H' and substitute 'the Regulations'.

AMD 6523
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Clause 6.5.2.1 Construction

In paragraph 6, lines 4 and 5 delete 'supplies to the driving motor' and substitute 'supplies to a carriage mounted driving motor'.

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Clause 6.5.3.1

Delete the existing paragraph 5 and substitute the following:

'A safety belt or other safety restraint shall be fitted.'

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Clause 6.6.6.5

Delete the existing text and substitute the following:

'The nominal cross sectional area of all conductors in a trailing cable shall be not less than 0.75 mm².'

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Clause 6.6.6.8

In lines 3 and 4 delete 'not less than 32/0.2 mm or equivalent area' and substitute 'not less than 0.75 mm².'

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Clause A.1.1 Suitability of stairlift for the type of disability

At the end of the paragraph insert the following:

'NOTE. Special consideration should be given to the widely differing needs of the envisaged users of stairlifts to be installed in premises other than private dwellings.'

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Clause A.1.1.7

Delete this clause and substitute '*Text deleted*'.

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December 1990

New appendix

Insert the attached new appendix **D** after appendix **C**.

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Publications referred to

Insert the following:

- 'BS 5588 Fire precautions in the design and construction of buildings
Part 8 : 1988 Code of practice for means of escape for disabled people
 - BS 6440 Code of practice for powered lifting platforms for use by disabled persons'.
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Appendix D

Guidelines for the installation of stairlifts in public buildings, commercial buildings and residential homes

D.0 Introduction. Although the original intention of this standard was to cover powered stairlifts to be installed in private dwellings, increasingly they have been installed in buildings other than private dwellings.

Stairlifts, either seat stairlifts or wheelchair platform stairlifts, specifically for use by people with disabilities, may be installed in employment buildings, and in buildings used by the public, such as libraries, museums, art galleries, theatres, assembly halls, leisure centres and sports pavilions.

This appendix is intended to define conditions which should be complied within these buildings.

The term 'commercial buildings' used in this appendix refers to all buildings other than private dwellings in which a stairlift may be installed.

D.1 Stairlifts, users and building considerations. Stairlifts should be installed in commercial buildings only where it is not reasonably practicable to incorporate a passenger lift in accordance with BS 5655, or, in the case of a vertical travel not greater than 1.98 m, a powered lifting platform in accordance with BS 6400.

Considerations relevant to the installation of stairlifts between storeys are noted in D.5 and within storeys in D.6.

With a proposal to install a stairlift in a private dwelling the characteristics of the individual disabled person will be known and the installation can be tailored to suit the individual. Maintenance and insurance conditions would relate to the use of the stairlift by that individual only. By contrast, with a proposal to install a stairlift in a commercial building the characteristics of the potential users, except in rare cases, will be unknown. The selected stairlift therefore should be suitable for a wide range of disabilities.

The conditions that should be satisfied prior to a proposal for a stairlift installation being approved for a commercial building, a public building or a residential home are therefore more rigorous than those applying to an installation in a private dwelling.

A proposal to install a stairlift in a commercial building to facilitate access for people with disabilities will more commonly be made for an existing building than a new one. Where a building is planned, it will be practicable to incorporate reasonable access provision, such as a lift complying with BS 5655, without the need to install a stairlift. The use of a stairlift should be restricted to people with disabilities (see A.1.1.6(c) and (d) and D.5.1).

D.2 Stairlifts and means of escape. In no circumstances should a stairlift be considered to be a suitable means of escape (see section 3 of BS 5588 : Part 8 : 1988).

D.3 Stairlifts and access considerations. Where a stairlift installation is proposed in association with a stairway within a building or a stepped approach to a building that is subject to building regulations, the provision of handrails should not be compromised.

D.4 Consultation. Before purchasing or installing a stairlift the building owner, the building manager, or the architect, building surveyor or other professional agent acting on behalf of the building owner or manager should consult with:

- (a) the area fire prevention branch to ensure that the proposal will not conflict with means of escape provisions and evacuation procedures;
- (b) the Environmental Health Officer of the appropriate local authority to ensure compliance with relevant health and safety requirements;
- (c) the building control department of the appropriate local authority to ensure compliance with the relevant building regulations;
- (d) in respect of registered homes, the Health or relevant authority that is the Registration Authority.

D.5 Stairlifts operating between storeys

D.5.1 New buildings. A stairlift should only be installed in a new building having a single stairway when the stairway width required for means of escape is maintained beyond the incursion into the stairway width of any fixed part of the stairlift installation, such as its carriage rail. The space taken up by other parts of the installation, such as its power unit and the stairlift itself when in the closed state, should also be considered.

In a new building with two or more stairways between storeys, the installation of a stairlift providing access for people with disabilities will be acceptable only on a stairway that is not to be used as a means of escape. This is amplified in section 3 of BS 5588 : Part 8 : 1988, which gives recommendations for the use of stairlifts as a means of vertical escape by disabled persons from buildings.

D.5.2 Existing commercial buildings

D.5.2.1 Public buildings. A stairlift may be installed in an existing public building, subject to advice from statutory authorities.

D.5.2.2 Residential homes. Only in exceptional circumstances, and subject to advice from statutory bodies, should a stairlift be installed in a residential home, or other building catering for the welfare, rehabilitation or care of people with disabilities. (See also D.4.)

D.5.2.3 Other commercial buildings. In an existing commercial building the installation of a stairlift between storeys should be considered only in respect of a designated employee(s). (See also 6.6.2.2.)

D.6 Stairlifts within storeys

D.6.1 Application. Within a storey of a building, the installation of a stairlift may be proposed to facilitate access for people with disabilities to a stage or platform, or between floors that are not at the same level.

D.6.2 New buildings. In the planning and design of a new building it should normally be practicable to facilitate access between different levels within a storey by means of a suitable ramp, or, if that is not practicable, by means of a powered lifting platform conforming to BS 6440. However, where it is not practicable to provide either a ramp or a lifting platform, a stairlift may be provided for use by people with disabilities.

