



Lift & Escalator Owner News

Subject: COVID-19: Guidance to lift, escalator & moving walk owners

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, lifts, escalators and moving walks, homelifts and stairlifts are in many cases essential to building occupants and users. See our guidance on what is essential maintenance work: <https://www.leia.co.uk/covid-19-what-is-essential-maintenance-work/>

Below we offer some basic guidance for users and owners.

	User precautions	Owner considerations
Lift car and landing buttons and lift car handrails	Avoid direct contact (e.g. use an object such as a pen top to press the button) or wear gloves. Where this is not possible, wash your hands thoroughly afterwards	Clean push buttons, handrails, doors and other surfaces regularly with a disinfected damp cloth or alcohol wipe. Some lifts have a “bus stop” or Sabbath mode where the lift cycles between floors without being called from the buttons – this mode could be switched on.
Lift lobbies	Follow physical distancing guidance – 2 metres apart	These measures might increase the waiting time for lifts. Consider measures to reduce the demand for lifts e.g. use stairs where possible, staggered start times
Lift cars	Do not enter a lift if this results in being within 2 metres of another passenger. In most cases this means one person per lift car.	
Lift cars – quiet or empty buildings	Avoid using lift cars if there are few people in the building.	Regularly check that the lift alarm communication system is operating correctly. If there is no alarm communication device, put alternative measures in place to check if someone is trapped in the lift car. If not, consider taking the lift out of service.
Escalators and moving walks handrails	Use gloves when using the handrails or wash your hands thoroughly afterwards	Consider fitting UV-C disinfection units to inside of escalators and moving walks and fitting signs advising users. Note: external units might introduce risks to users from UV-C light and trapping hazards for fingers/ hands.at
Escalators & moving walks	Follow physical distancing guidance – 2 metres apart	This might increase waiting times – consider demand management.
Homelifts, lifting platforms in domestic premises	Avoid contact e.g. by wearing gloves. Where this is not possible, wash your hands thoroughly afterwards	Clean push buttons, handrails and other surfaces regularly with a disinfected damp cloth or alcohol wipe.