

RISK MANAGEMENT

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Risk and risk analysis terms are being heard and spoken rather frequently since the imposition of the obligation to affix CE mark on lifts. Therefore, we deem it necessary to enter into more details of the continuous analysis of risks which should in fact be a natural part of the life and business vision of every manufacturer.

In the literal sense, the word "risk" means the possibility or probability of loss or damage or the hazard of loss or damage. According to this definition, each and every type of engineering services, designing services and resistance calculations is by nature a type of risk analysis. This means to say that it is fairly senseless and meaningless for an engineer who has throughout his life designed buildings, structures, machines and electrical installations so as to make them operate without causing or incurring damages to ask "what is risk analysis".

The norms and standards of TS EN 1050 Safety of Machinery – Principles For Risk Assessment stand as guidelines thereon.

If we read the heading of Risk Assessment in TS EN 13015 Standards, we may have an idea about its point of view relating to lifts:

5 Risk assessment

5.1 General

Before an installation is placed on the market, it is necessary that the installer/manufacturer carries out a risk assessment in accordance with the Lifts Directive (95/16/EEC) respectively the Machinery Directive (98/37/EEC). Every risk shall be limited as much as reasonably possible by means of safety measures and suitable instructions. The instructions can never replace a safety measure which can be provided to reduce the risk.

It is necessary to determine the different intervention procedures of the maintenance operations and to determine the appropriate safety measures for each of these procedures.

The use of diagnostic systems (e.g. remote monitoring system, based on EN 627) may support fault finding, improve the maintainability of the installation and reduce the exposure of maintenance persons to hazards.

Safety in maintenance operations of the installation is ensured by adopting safety measures and providing instructions. Safety measures on the installation and in the building shall be provided by the installer and by the owner of the installation respectively.

For any working area, it is necessary to identify the list of the specific hazards related to health and safety and to carry out a risk assessment for any maintenance operation, including access to the working area.

For this purpose, the following should be taken into account:

- a) presence of one or more maintenance persons in a working area;
- b) foreseeable actions of persons other than maintenance persons (e.g. person switching on or off power circuits and dependent circuits or lighting circuits or trying to use the installation during maintenance operations, etc.);
- c) possible states of the installation (normal or abnormal due to a foreseeable failure of its component parts, external disturbances, disturbance of its power supply, etc.).

Annex B gives a list of examples of elements to be taken into account in any risk assessment for maintenance operations. However, several methods are available for the systematic assessment of risk. An example is given in EN 1050:1996, annex B.

The word risk is used 20 times in TS 10922 EN 81-1 Standards. This means to say that the definition of risks and the actions to be taken against them are a part of life for the lift industry.

The risk and risk assessment subjects are included in the agenda of technical negotiations and discussions since a long time. For instance, the definition of “acceptable level of applicable actions” has been discussed much. A definition proposed and suggested in 1949 (1) is as follows:

“The reasonable level of applicable’ term has a narrower scope than the ‘physically possible’ term. What it means to say is as such: The obligor should make the following calculation. When risk is put on one pan of the balance, and sacrifice (money, time or efforts) required for prevention and avoidance of risk is put on the other pan, if there exists a great and significant imbalance, or to put it differently, if the risk is insignificant as regards the required sacrifice, then the defendant gets relieved of his obligations.”

Actions against risk may be classified and categorized as possible and absolute requirements. If a mandatory legislative act or text like the Lift Regulation is in force, it is necessary to fulfill the safety requirements within the defined frame. Even if it is too costly and onerous to find an applicable action against risk, it is obligatorily required to be applied.

As for the lift industry executives and managers, risk assessment is not only a process limited by the stage of elimination or avoidance of risks to persons in car, persons out of car and other subjects as and when they emerge with the existence of lift. That is why we must habitually perform both technical and financial risk analyses at each and every stage in the course of manufacturing of lift and its components.

Let us emphasize the requirement of analysis for management of risk as follows:

“Unless and until the risks and the actions taken against risks are thoroughly assessed, i.e. a risk assessment is made, an obligor cannot even hope to be able to determine whether the relevant requirements are met “as and when they become applicable” or not, or whether mandatory requirements are complied with or not.” (2)

To assess the risk and develop actions against risk is far easier than managing the crisis upon and after occurrence of the risk.

(1) Lord Justice Asquith (V. National Coal Council, 1949)

(2) Risk Assessment Manual p. 6 (MMA Publication N. 2007/441)

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