

OH&S SAFETY ALERT

Number 3, July 2022

LIFT INSTALLATION PIT ACCESS



This alert has been generated to ensure that all sites in Victoria are aware of the risks associated with entering/leaving of lift pits in the construction and maintenance of lift installations.

Before any access into a liftwell pit is carried out on site, there shall be established written rescue and recovery procedures, with nominated responsibilities clearly defined. (refer to alert 3).

Employers have a duty to ensure their workplace is safe, and this includes controlling the risk of falls from any height.

The Victorian Occupational Health & Safety 2004 under Section 21 states:

An employer must, so far as is reasonably practical, provide and maintain for employees of the employer, a working environment that is safe and without risks to health.

The Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2007, identifies that when working in close proximity to an unprotected edge, or in close proximity to a hole, shaft or pit that is of

sufficient dimensions to allow a person to fall, extra precautions are required to ensure that safe means of entering/leaving can be achieved.

Due to the inherent risks associated with the design of many liftwell, an employer must eliminate the risk by working on the ground or on a solid structure. If this is not reasonably practicable, you must control the risk using the following measures in order of priority:

- use a passive fall prevention device i.e. scaffold;
- use a work positioning system to ensure employees work within a safe area;
- install a fall arrest system to limit the risk of injuries in the event of a fall; and
- use a fixed or portable ladder, or implement administrative control.

The above provisions shall be in place prior to any productive work being undertaken on site.

Contact your designated Health & Safety representative or your local organiser for assistance,

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