

Major changes to SOMSAR This brief review is concerned specifically with the changes which affect machinery designed for lifting persons and similar machines which may lift goods only. As with the previous Regulation any lifting equipment in which a person is carried and where there is a risk of that person falling more than 3 metres, is within the scope of Annex IV of the Directive which is Schedule 2 (Part 4) of the new Regulations. Where a machine described in Schedule 2 (Part 4) is designed and manufactured in accordance with Harmonized Standards then the manufacturer may:

1. Self declare and instigate procedures to ensure continuing compliance with the Harmonized Standards and the Directive Schedule 2 (Part 8).
2. Request EC Type Examination by a Notified Body and instigate procedures to ensure continuing compliance with the Harmonized Standards and the Directive Schedule 2 (Part 9)
3. Instigate a full Quality Assurance system Schedule 2 (Part 10)

Where the machine does not comply with the relevant Harmonized Standards or there are no such Standards then the manufacturer shall design and manufacture in accordance with points 2 or 3 above. The major change is the option of using a full Quality Assurance system to control design and manufacture to ensure compliance with the requirements of the new Regulations. Construction hoists are now included in the scope of the Regulations. **Amendments to the Lifts Regulations 1997** Lifting appliances, carrying persons, whose rated speed is less than 0.15 m/s are excluded from the Lifts Regulations but included in SOMSAR. The word carrier is introduced and is defined as a part of a lift by which persons or goods are transported in order to be lifted or lowered. Also the carrier of each lift must be a car. This car must be designed and constructed to offer the space and strength corresponding to the maximum number of persons and the rated load of the lift set by the installer.

Further Advice and Information Lift Cert Limited is an approved Notified Body under the Machinery Directive for equipment lifting persons. These machines come within Annex IV of the Directive which identifies machines having potentially high levels of risk to users. Lift Cert Limited are able to offer manufacturers, designers and installers of lifts and lifting platforms, which come under Annex IV, an expert service offering EC Type Examination or Full Quality Assurance routes to certification of these products. We can also advise on the implications of the new Regulations for Machinery and amendment of the Lifts Regulations with you if you require further information.

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MACHINERY (Vertical Lifting Platforms)

In February 2005 Lift Cert Limited were appointed by BERR - Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform as a Notified Body under Regulation 18(1) of the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992 (As Amended). This means that we are able to conduct assessment and certification of devices falling within the scope of Schedule 4, clause 16 of the Regulations. The most relevant type of device being Vertical Lifting Platforms for disabled access.

The existing Machinery Directive and the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992 have been re-issued. Please see our Services page for more detailed information.
Company Contacts

Malcolm Miles, Technical Director

Malcolm has worked in the lift industry for 45 years having served an indentured apprenticeship as a Lift Artificer with J&E Hall Limited, Dartford, Kent. Prior to forming Lift Cert Limited, he worked with Eagle Star/ Zurich for 37 years. During this time his responsibilities included researching safety and regulatory issues associated with lifts and lifting equipment and delivering internal and external seminars on these subjects.

Malcolm also serves on many National and European committees associated with lifts and the implementation of relevant regulations and standards. Malcolm is Vice President of the European Notified Body forum for Lifts and is a member of the technical committee of the British Standards Institution for Lifts and Escalators. He was the SAFed representative on the technical committee and drafting committee for the Lift Guidance 1 document published by SAFed.