

Section 4 – Fireman’s Lift

Subsection D6 - Designation of Fireman’s Lift

Clause D6.1

Where more than one lift installed in a building is required to have a fireman’s lift, the lift which is to be the fireman’s lift should be that designated by the Director of Fire Services.

Clause D6.2

A lift mainly intended for the transport of goods in a building of Use Classification 6 should not be designated as a fireman’s lift.

Subsection D7 - Access to a Fireman’s Lift at Ground Storey

Clause D7.1

Access to a fireman’s lift (“fire service access point”) should be available at a ground storey in the perimeter of the building either directly from a street which is accessible by the vehicles of the Fire Services Department or through an open area having a minimum dimension of 1.5m and having access free from any permanent obstruction to such a street. Such access should not be closed with doors or gates unless they are capable of being readily openable without the use of a key.

Clause D7.2

A fireman’s lift may be set back from the fire service access point at the ground storey in the perimeter of the building provided that the horizontal distance from the fire service access point to the doors of the fireman’s lift is not more than 18m. In cases where the physical characteristics and constraints of a site render it desirable, the Building Authority may allow a longer horizontal distance provided that level of fire safety is not adversely affected.

Clause D7.3

The passage from the fire service access point to the fireman’s lift should –

- (a) have a clear width of not less than 1500mm and a clear headroom of not less than 2000mm; and
- (b) be separated from the remainder of the ground storey by walls having an FRR of not less than that required for the elements of construction in the ground storey. Any opening in these walls for communication with ground storey should be through a protected lobby complying with Clauses C9.3 and C16.5.

Clause D7.4

A notice in the following form indicating the fire service access point should be displayed at a conspicuous position outside the building near the point:



The height of the words and characters on the notice should be not less than 20mm. Such notice should be either illuminated by two separate systems of electric light or a type of safety sign which is self-energized in respect of luminosity and which requires no external source of power.

Subsection D8 - Floors Served by a Fireman's Lift

Clause D8.1

Fireman's lifts should be provided to enable firefighters to reach any floor that may be on fire in the building without having to traverse more than two floors and should be arranged in such a way that:

- (a) in the case of a single fireman's lift, it serves at least the alternate floors;
- (b) in the case of multiple fireman's lifts within a common liftwell, the lifts may serve different zones of the building provided that the zones to be served are clearly indicated;
- (c) in all cases, subject to Clause D8.1(d), the pattern of service should be uniform and regular, i.e. a lift serves either the odd floors, even floors or all floors; and
- (d) Where refuge floors are provided, every such refuge floor should be served by at least one fireman's lift. The lift doors opening onto the refuge floors should comply with Clause B18.2(i).

Clause D8.2

Where the pattern of service adopted for a fireman's lift is such that the top floor is to be served, the top floor should be served unless the lift machine room has to be located at the top floor due to height restrictions.

Clause D8.3

The lowest landing of a fireman's lift serving the storeys above ground storey or topmost landing of a fireman's lift serving the basement, as the case may be, should be situated at the level of the fire service access point in Subsection D7. If this is not possible due to site constraints or other special reasons acceptable to the Building Authority, such landing may be situated not more than one floor above or below the level of the fire service access point.

Clause D8.4

No part of the floor served by a fireman's lift should be more than 60m from the door of the lift lobby measured along actual passages. If the internal layout is not known at the design stage or is not shown on plan, a direct line measurement of 45m may be used for design purposes, provided that the layout of the floor when occupied satisfies the 60m requirement.

Subsection D9 - Liftwell of a Fireman's Lift

Clause D9.1

A separate liftwell should be provided for each fireman's lift and up to three fireman's lifts may share the same liftwell. See Diagram D3.

Clause D9.2

A notice should be displayed outside the liftwell indicating the fireman's lift by the words 'FIREMAN'S LIFT' and "消防員升降機" in English and Chinese and the floors served. The height of the words and characters on the notice should be not less than 15mm.

Subsection D10 - Lift Car of a Fireman's Lift

Clause D10.1

The car of a fireman's lift should have a minimum internal dimension of 1.1m, a net internal floor area of not less than 1.35m² and a rated load of not less than 680 kg.

Subsection D11 - Lobby to a Fireman's Lift

Clause D11.1

Each point of discharge from a fireman's lift to the floor served, except at the fire service access point in Subsection D7, should be through a lobby having a floor area of not less than 2.25m² and a minimum dimension of 1.5m. The lobby should be separated from that floor by walls and doors having an FRR of not less than that required for the elements of construction in that floor, subject to a maximum of 120 minutes and complying with the requirements in Table C2.

Clause D11.2

Openings for lighting and/or ventilation may be made in an external wall enclosing the lobby provided that the requirements in Clauses C9.6 to C9.8 of Part C are complied with.

Clause D11.3

Where only one or some of the lifts in a bank of lifts are fireman's lifts, they may share a common lift lobby, provided that such lobby is provided on every floor served by any of these lifts.

Clause D11.4

Every lobby to a fireman's lift should have direct access, without any obstruction and lockable door, to a protected exit. Such lobby should be designed as a common area and an integral part of the fireman's lift so that it could not be readily incorporated as part of any adjacent unit(s) of accommodation.

Subsection D12 – Doors of a Fireman's Lift

Clause D12.1

The door opening of a fireman's lift should not be less than 800mm wide and 2000mm high. The doors should be fitted with power operated automatic self-closing device.

Subsection D13 – Control and Operation of a Fireman's Lift

Clause D13.1

A fireman's lift should be designed and installed in accordance with the special control, operational, electrical and mechanical requirements for fireman's lifts specified in the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators published by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services.