

People who cannot use stairs prefer a passenger lift to access different storeys within a building.

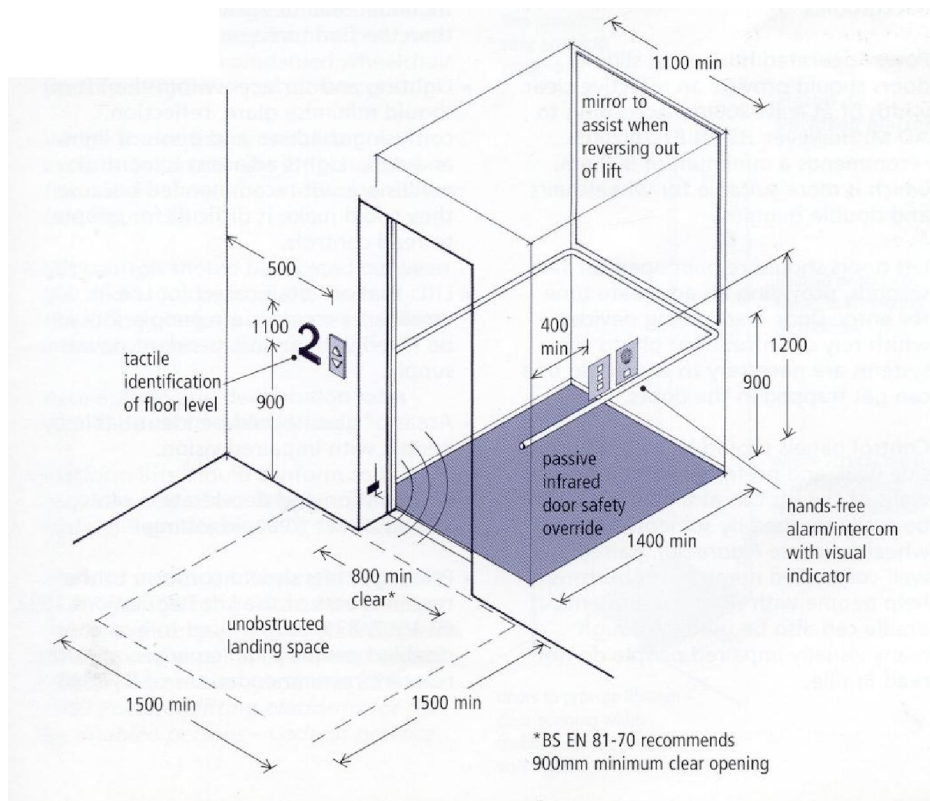


Figure 30
Lift car dimensions

- The minimum lift car dimensions to accommodate a wheelchair user and an accompanying person are 1100mm x 1400mm (see Figure 30). However, these dimensions do not allow a wheelchair user to turn around inside the lift. Therefore, a mirror (bottom edge 900mm from the floor) should be provided in the lift car to enable a wheelchair user to see what level the lift has reached.
- Larger size lifts are preferred where possible and may in fact be required depending on the building type and use. For example, a lift compartment 2000mm wide by 1400mm deep will accommodate most types of wheelchairs together with several other standing passengers.
- Fold down or perch seats in larger lifts would be helpful.

- Lifts should be served by landings large enough for wheelchair users to turn to reverse into the lift (Figure 30).
- The call panel should be easily distinguishable from its background.
- Lift buttons should also be clearly distinguishable.
- 'Lift coming' indication should be clear from any position within the lift lobby. Where there is more than one lift, ensure people with mobility impairments have time to get to the relevant lift.
- The floor immediately outside the lift and the lift car doors should be visually distinguishable from the adjoining walls.
- Visual and tactile (e.g. raised, embossed) indication of floor level adjacent to call buttons and opposite lift doors should be provided.
- All signs and buttons should contrast visually with their backgrounds.
- Power operated horizontal sliding doors should provide an effective clear width of at least 800mm according to Part M. However, BS EN 81-70:2003 recommends a minimum of 900mm, which is more suitable for wheelchairs and double buggies.
- Lift doors should remain open for five seconds, providing an adequate time for entry. Door reactivating devices which rely on infrared or photo eye systems are necessary to ensure people do not get trapped in the doors.
- Control panels should be located on a side wall, and preferably on both side walls of the lift car, at a height that can be easily reached by someone in a wheelchair (Figure 30). Raised and well contrasted numbers on buttons help people with sight impairments; Braille can also be used although it should not be the only form as some people do not read Braille.
- Audible announcements and visual displays are recommended internally and externally on all lifts to indicate floor reached or inform that the doors are open.
- Emergency telephones in lifts should be easy to use (e.g. intercom, push button activated rather than hand held) and contain inductive couplers so that hearing aid users can make use of them.
- Alarm buttons in lifts should be fitted with visual acknowledgement that the alarm bell has sounded for lift users who are unable to hear it.
- The floor of the lift car should have frictional qualities similar to or higher than the floor area outside the lift.
- Lighting and surfaces within the lift car should minimise glare, reflection, confusing shadows and pools of light and dark. Lights adjacent to control panels are not recommended because they can make it difficult for people to read the controls.
- Lifts that are designated for use in emergency to evacuate people should be fitted with an independent power supply.

- Areas of glass should be identifiable by people with visual impairments.
- Acceleration and deceleration rates should be set to avoid jolting.
- Passenger lifts should conform to the requirements of the Lift Regulations 1997 (SI 1997 / 831)* and, if used to evacuate disabled people in an emergency, to the relevant recommendations of BS 5588-8.

*At the time of publication

