

While not ideal, platform lifts may be acceptable to overcome changes in level where a passenger lift or ramp is not possible due to space constraints. The disadvantages include slow travel speed and the need to continually apply pressure on the controls; the latter can be difficult for some people.

- Platform lifts should be located next to the stairs with which they are associated.
- The lift should be designed for independent use with clearly visible controls set at a suitable height for wheelchair users; there should be clear instructions for use and they should be fitted with an emergency alarm.
- The platform needs to be large enough to accommodate a range of users. A larger platform may be required for powered wheelchairs or accompanied wheelchair users (Figure 31 for dimensions).
- Where the vertical travel distance exceeds 2m and/or the lift penetrates a floor, there should be a liftway enclosure (Figure 32).
- Lift controls should be located between 800 – 1100mm from the floor of the lifting platform and at least 400mm from any return wall.
- Acceleration and deceleration rates should be set to avoid jolting.

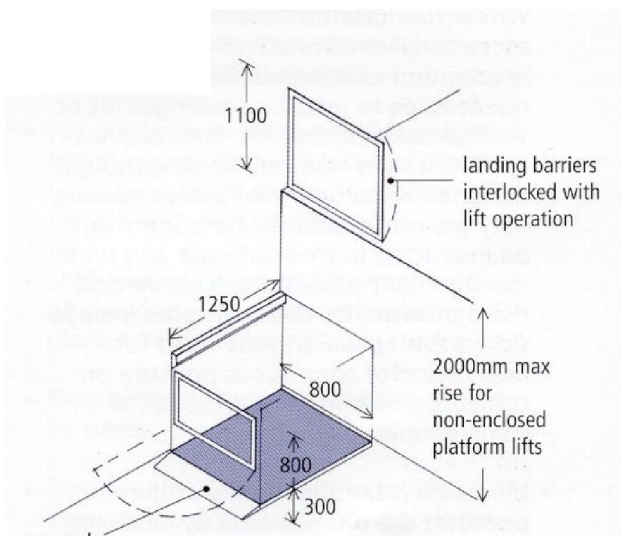


Figure 31
Short-rise platform

- Platform lifts should conform to the requirements of the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 1992, SI 1992/3073*.
- Guidance on landing controls, distinguishing doors from walls, audible and visual announcements and identifying areas of glass can be found in 'Passenger Lifts and BS 6440: 1999 Powered lifting platforms for use by disabled persons – Code of practice.

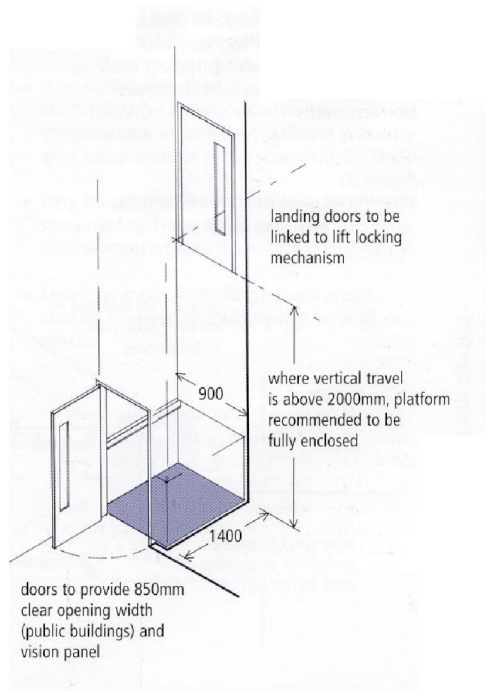


Figure 32
Enclosed platform lifts