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25 August, 1999

All Registered Lift Contractors

Dear Sirs,

**Circular No. 16/99**  
**Control Buttons of Lift for Persons with a Disability**

We have recently received enquiries about essential lift control buttons in lift car.

The relevant requirements of these buttons are mentioned in both Building (Planning) Regulations (Item 14(b) in Part I of the Third Schedule) and Design Manual: Barrier Free Access 1997 (Clause 5.7.1(c)). There may be a doubt whether floor buttons in the lift car are essential control buttons. If floor buttons are installed at height less than 900 mm or more than 1.2m above the floor level of the car, the persons with a disability may not be able to press them. As such, it has been confirmed with the Buildings Department that floor buttons in the lift car are considered as essential control buttons.

Yours faithfully,

(G.M.W. CHUI)  
for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

c.c. AD/BS  
D of H (Attn: TS/2)  
D of FS (Attn: Fire Protection Command)  
DB (Attn: CBS/Legislation)

SCMN/GMWC/tlp