



Australian Elevator Association (AEA) position

AEA members are committed to working to government instructions and guidance on controlling the spread of COVID-19. Many in our industry are involved in carrying out essential work on sites critical to the COVID-19 response and to keep equipment and users safe.

The Prime Minister has stated *“an essential worker is any one with a job”*

We note that employers and employees will need to assess whether their work is absolutely necessary and have set out below our guidance on what might be considered essential work.

Lifts, escalators and moving walks, equal access platforms and stairlifts remaining in service

We believe that equipment which is kept in service as part of the operation of buildings or infrastructure critical to the COVID-19 response must continue to be maintained. Such work is therefore considered to be essential along with attending breakdowns and entrapments. Examples of such situations where equipment might be required to stay in service in critical buildings and infrastructure include:

1. Hospitals and health care facilities – bed-passenger lifts and lifts for users with impaired mobility.
2. Aged Care and nursing homes
3. Other buildings associated with critical facilities such as utilities, infrastructure, transport, food production and distribution, retailing, critical manufacture, banks
4. Transport infrastructure such as train stations, bus interchanges and airports that may remain open.
5. High-rise residential buildings and other where lifts are essential for access to and from apartments.
6. Buildings where lifts are required as part of fire safety – especially including evacuation lifts and lifts for the use by firefighters.
7. Schools and educational buildings staying open for children of key workers and vulnerable children. Many of these have accessible lifts which are essential for users with limited impaired mobility.
8. Domestic buildings with homelifts, lifting platforms and stairlifts which are essential to users.
9. Other buildings where there is equipment which needs to stay in service.

For these locations and equipment remaining in service, essential work includes:

- Annual Safe to Operate statement according to WHS Legislation
- Maintenance work essential for safety of the equipment
- Attending to breakdowns and entrapments to release trapped passengers
- Supply of parts and materials needed to repair equipment and to keep equipment operating safely.

Lifts, escalators and moving walks, equal access platforms and stairlifts not remaining in service

Where building owners wish to remove equipment from service, then this should be discussed with your service provider.

Equipment which has been taken out of service can still deteriorate and some safety hazards remain.

A minimum level of “caretaker” maintenance should be carried out to keep equipment safe.

There are other reasons why at least a basic minimum level of maintenance is needed including avoiding potential problems and additional work involved with the later recommissioning of equipment.