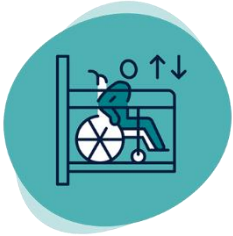




Stage 2 Reforms of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002



Lifts: Lift specifications and enhancement

The existing lift accessibility requirements in the Transport Standards reference a dated Australian Standard that does not take into account technological advances in accessibility features that are increasingly being installed as standard practice. There is an opportunity to update the referenced standard to reflect technological advances and improvements in lift specifications and enhancements.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

Transport Standards *Part 13, Lifts*, would remain unchanged and no additional guidance would be issued.

Non-regulatory option

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or The Whole Journey Guide would be updated to include best practice guidance for enhanced lift accessibility, including:

- Lift facilities may aim to comply with AS1735.12 (2020) *Lifts, escalators and moving walks, Part 12: Facilities for persons with disabilities* as this is the current industry standard for accessible lifts. AS1735.12 (1999) *Lifts, escalators and moving walks, Part 12: Facilities for persons with disabilities* is now obsolete in many of its technical requirements.
- In some instances, AS1735.12 (2020) includes technical requirements for fixtures and fittings that differ with those in other Australian Standards referenced in the Transport Standards. Where any discrepancy between the requirements of the Transport Standards and AS1735.12 (2020) occur, the requirements of the Transport Standards take precedence.

Regulatory option

Transport Standards section 13.1 would be amended to include the following (including any requirements retained or amended from the status quo):

- Lift facilities must comply with AS1735.12 (2020).
- Where any discrepancy between the requirements of AS1735.12 (2020) and technical requirements of the Transport Standards occur, the requirements of the Transport Standards take precedence.

These requirements would apply to premises (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply) and infrastructure (except airports that do not accept regular public transport services.)

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or The Whole Journey Guide would also be updated to include the following guidance:

- In some instances, AS1735.12 (2020) will present technical requirements for fixtures and fittings that differ with those in other Australian Standards referenced in the Transport Standards. For example, space between the handrail and the wall is not less than 35 millimetres in AS1735.12 (2020) but is not less than 50 millimetres in AS1428.1 (2009). AS1428.1 (2009) is the referenced standard in Transport Standards *Part 11 Handrails and Grabrails* and so the 50 millimetre dimension takes precedence. Other technical anomalies should be dealt with in the same manner.

Case study

Pablo has been asked to procure a lift for a ferry pontoon that is located 10 metres lower than street level. His instructions are to ensure that the lift fully complies with the Disability Standards Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT). Pablo finds that the referenced lift standard is dated 1999. While this is the compliance requirement he wonders if the standard is up to date since lift technology has advanced considerably in the more than 20 years since the standard was published. On investigation, Pablo finds that there is a 2020 edition of the standard that takes into account the new technologies and has a better human rights basis. He wonders what to do.

Pablo's experience today

Pablo decides that compliance is the priority and therefore opts to reference the 1999 lift standard in the procurement document. He is confident that by compliance he will both deliver an accessible product and protect his employer from complaint.

Pablo's experience under the proposed reforms

Pablo decides to investigate the 2020 standard. His supervisor gives permission and so Pablo contacts lift industry specialists, an access consultant and members of the organisation's accessibility reference group. Pablo is assured by all that the 2020 standard meets and exceeds the 1999 standard and that by procuring a lift meeting 2020 he will comply with 1999 as there is a backwards compatibility in most areas. The access consultant informs him of the technical additions in the 2020 standard that cover scenarios such as touchscreen controls that are missing from the 1999 edition. Satisfied, Pablo lists the 2020 edition of the lift standard in the procurement document.

Have your say

Public consultation on the Stage 2 reform of the Transport Standards will open from 15 March to August 2022.

For further information:

- **Website:** www.infrastructure.gov.au
- **Call:** 1800 621 372
- **Email:** DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au
- **Survey:** <https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=28692&name=lift-specifications-and-enhancements>