

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON CODE OF PRACTICE (COP) FOR VERTICAL PLATFORM LIFT WITH ENCLOSED PLATFORM AND AUTOMATIC SLIDING DOORS

1. Can a Vertical Platform Lift (VPL) with fully enclosed platform and automatic sliding doors as defined in this Code of Practice (COP) be considered a VPL as defined in EN81-41?

No, VPL with fully enclosed platform and automatic sliding doors “VPL(Enclosed)” as defined in this COP generally does not fit into the definition of VPL as defined in EN81-41. The risks associated with the VPL defined in this COP generally differ from the risk associated with the VPL defined in EN81-41.

Hence, the intention of this COP is to ensure that the requirements of the VPL(Enclosed) and automatic sliding doors aligns with the safety requirements of the established standards, e.g. EN81-41 and SS550, based on risk assessment of known hazards for its intended usage.

2. Do all Vertical Platform Lifts (VPL) need to comply with this new COP?

No, this COP is only applicable to VPL(Enclosed). There is no change to the requirements on the design, installation, and operation of conventional VPL (without fully enclosed platform and automatic sliding doors). For conventional VPL, it shall comply to the requirements in EN81-41 or ASME 18.1.

3. What is the rationale for this new COP?

Currently, there is no international or local standard for the VPL(Enclosed). BCA has developed a Code of Practice (COP) to address the safety hazards, with reference to established standards (including EN81-41, SS550:2020).

The COP aims to formalize the requirements that BCA is currently imposing on the applications for alternative solution for VPL(Enclosed). The COP specifies the minimum requirements for the installation, operation and maintenance of these VPLs. Therefore, the publication of this COP is to align the safety requirements for these VPL with the established standards i.e., EN81-41 and SS550, based on risk assessment of known hazards for its intended use.

4. What is the effective date of implementation for this COP?

A six-month grace period will be given from the issuance of the circular dated 3 June 2024. The developer, builder and qualified persons involved in proposed building works for which the first set of plans (building plans (BP), structural plans (ST) or CD shelter plan whichever is

earlier) is submitted to BCA on or after **3 December 2024**, must ensure compliance with the COP, where applicable.

5. Is it necessary to submit an alternative solution application if the VPL(Enclosed) complies with this COP?

If the first set of plans (BP/ST/CD) is submitted to BCA on or after 3 December 2024, and that the VPL(Enclosed) is fully compliant with the COP, there is no need for submission of an alternative solution for approval. The Specialised Professional Engineer in Lift and Escalator engineering (SPE) may declare compliance to this COP and apply for PTO through LEAP. Type examination certificates and reports shall be submitted together with the PTO application, where applicable.

However, if the first set of plans (BP/ST/CD) is submitted to BCA before 3 December 2024, to simplify the process in the interim for project parties who propose the installation of a VPL(Enclosed), the SPE may ensure compliance with the COP and thereafter, declare such compliance in the alternative solution application, without having to list down the deviations from EN81-41 and the corresponding mitigations.

6. What happen if there is/are deviation(s) from this COP?

If there is any deviation from the COP in the design of a proposed VPL(Enclosed) regardless the first plan submission date, the QP(BP) and SPE will have to submit an alternative solution application for approval, with the following documents:

- a. Schedule of Alternative Solutions with declaration by the QP and SPE;
- b. Clause-by-clause compliance table against the COP, with reference to clauses in the established standards; and
- c. Supporting documents (such as photos, videos, type examination certificates and reports)

7. What is the maintenance frequency for the VPL (Enclosed)?

The lift service contractor must carry out the maintenance works for the VPL (Enclosed) -
(i) at the frequency recommended in the manufacturer's recommendations for periodic maintenance (where available); or
(ii) once every 3 months,
whichever is more frequent.

8. Other than private single residential unit, can the VPL(Enclosed) be installed and used in public spaces?

The usage of VPL(Enclosed) is intended for private single residential unit. However, taking reference from the circular issued by BCA on "Installation of Vertical Platform Lifts at Public Places" dated 02 Dec 2019, should the VPL(Enclosed) be installed in public spaces or as a common lift in premises with limited access such as condominiums, it shall be used for the purpose of allowing persons with mobility difficulties to overcome a difference in level between spaces of up to one storey only.

9. Where can I find and download the COP?

The COP can be downloaded from BCA website, found using the link below:

<https://www1.bca.gov.sg/regulatory-info/lifts-escalators/code-of-practice-for-vertical-platform-lift-with-enclosed-platform-and-automatic-sliding-doors>

10. I would like to seek clarifications regarding the COP. How can I do so?

For further information, feedback or clarification, please submit your enquiry through BCA's Online Feedback Form at <https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform> or call us at (65)1800-342 5222 (1800- DIAL BCA).