OUR LIFTS AND ESCALATORS ARE USED ONE BILLION (1,000,000,000) TIMES PER DAY ACROSS EUROPE.

Each of these trips must be absolutely SAFE, just as safe a each flight of a plane.
ELA, THE EUROPEAN LIFT ASSOCIATION, represents the lifts, escalators and moving walks associations active in the European Union (EU) or the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), whether they are national associations or sector specific associations.

ELA also represents their components manufacturers. With its very wide representation, ELA is the main communication vector of the lift, escalator and moving walk industry to the European Commission, the European Parliament and a range of other international institutions and organizations. Its aim is also to help the national associations in their dialogue with their respective governments and the public at large.

THE OBJECTIVES OF ELA

- **To promote quality, safety** and the highest technical standards and to encourage technical progress in the fields of manufacturing, installation and maintenance of lifts, escalators and moving walkways.

- **To participate in all dialogues** with and to represent its members vis-à-vis public or private, national, EU and international organizations dealing, directly or indirectly, with issues related to lifts, escalators and moving walks.

- **To participate in the formulation of codes, standards, regulations, instructions or other notifications**, regarding lifts, escalators and moving walks, together with national, EU or international organizations, and to supervise the implementation thereof.

- **To collect and update information**, to set up databases and to publish statistics on equipment and services related to lifts, freight lifts, escalators, moving walks, associated systems and their components.

- **To promote information** for, and continued training of, installation or maintenance personnel.

- **To develop a durable link between its members**, the users of equipment and services related to lifts, escalators and moving walks, the public authorities and organizations as well as the public at large in the lift and escalator sector, and to further foster cooperation with the European and national authorities.

- **To identify the needs and interests of its members** and to inform them of the legislative and political developments at EU level as well as the development of codes and standards at European and international levels.

- **To encourage the adoption of common positions** by the European lift, escalator and moving walk industry and to represent its interests.

- **To achieve all that is useful** with regard to the accomplishment of any of the above objectives without pecuniary profit to ELA or any of its members.
SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH:

NEW NORMS & STANDARDS:

the ELA experts work in close cooperation with CEN/CENELEC, the European standardization organisation, to produce the norms for the lift & escalator industry, that are used as the state-of-the-art reference in Europe and many parts of the world. The EN 81 family of standards, starting from EN 81-1/2 (for new lifts, both hydraulic and electrical) and closing with the most recent EN 81-80 (SNEL, safety norm for existing lifts) cover the whole range of lift applications and their safety, including the use of lifts for evacuation in case of fire (EN-71, 72 & 73), the fire resistance of car doors (EN 81-58) and the use of lifts by people with disabilities (EN 81-41 & 70). Where European law does not apply (principle of subsidiarity), norms serve as a basis for new national legislation such as the "loi de Robien" in France (2004) and its application decrees or similar legislation in Belgium, Germany and Spain, to dramatically improve the safety of an ageing lift stock. What concerns escalators & moving walks, ELA experts are actively preparing a new norm for existing escalators, SNEE (safety norm for existing escalators), based on EN 115 for new escalators and developed in close cooperation with CEN.
EUROPEAN LEGISLATION & RECOMMENDATIONS:
ELA is in regular contact with the European Commission to review the application of European directives & recommendations, defining the borderline between machinery directive 98/37/EC and lift directive 95/16/EC, participating to the concept of guides for their application, establishing technical interpretations of annexes, assessing the implications for quality and safety of the decisions taken under different directives, helping new member states apply European legislation, etc. ELA also provides member associations with an appropriate support in their lobbying activities in their respective countries, including preparation of argumentation, documentation, contacts with key people in the national administrations and third organizations, which can support the lift & escalator industry initiatives.

ACCESSIBILITY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:
with the ageing European population, the need for a fully accessible built-environment is becoming top-priority: buildings & houses, but also the public space linking transport facilities such as underground, train stations and airports with the city. The people with disabilities are the vanguard of us all. It is not conceivable that buildings with 2 levels and more are built without a lift. The ELA experts participate to the Expert Groups and specialist committees (Build-For-All) set up by the European Commission to prepare a more accessible Europe tomorrow. Many existing buildings – both housing and other activities – pose a serious accessibility issue for elderly and disabled people. The lift industry is looking into ways of improving the accessibility of the built environment.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MARKET SURVEILLANCE:
many companies in the lift, escalator & moving walk industry are certified to make the inspection of their own products, once installed. ELA is active with the certification bodies and their representative associations, in improving market surveillance throughout Europe and making sure the skilled personnel employed by its member companies is properly trained and well-versed in the newest techniques for installation and maintenance.
ENERGY USE:

the lift & escalator industry have largely reduced their energy consumption through technological improvements over the last decades, both for hydraulic and electrical applications. ELA wants to take its share of the reduction of the energy use of buildings and apply the concept of an energy passport for buildings, to optimize the interfacing with the building into which the lift or escalator is installed.

IMPACT OF NEW NORMS ON COMPONENTS:

new norms such as the EN 81 series of standards have specific impacts on components, such as EN 81-58 (testing of resistance to fire of lift landing doors) for door manufacturers. ELA systematically analyses the impact of new norms and legislation on component families and informs its members of the impact they can expect. In turn, ELA relays the concern of components manufacturers, when specific issues need to be addressed.

STATISTICS:

good statistics are the basis upon which an industry can improve quality and safety for both users and its own technicians. ELA collects European statistics and is in constant relation with its national member associations to collect, enlarge the scope and improve the quality of its statistics, upon which action plans can be applied.
The European Lift Association publishes a NEWSLETTER four times a year, in English, German, French, Spanish and Italian. The last four issues are available in pdf format and can be downloaded from the ELA website: member associations and their members can obtain copies on line and specific documents on the “Members only” floor of this site.

The European Lift Association publishes BROCHURES to inform its members and the public at large of specific issues, such as the way to use SIGNS in the lift industry.

The European Lift Association WEBSITE gives general information to the general public and makes specific work documents available to its member associations and their own member companies on the top “VIP floor” of its website. Members are invited to ask for their code (3 letters é 3 figures) to the ELA staff, at info@ela-aisbl.org.

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