



# Fire brigade intervention considerations when using lifts for evacuation

## FRV Guideline GL-31 Lifts for evacuation

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# Background



## GL-31 – Use of lifts for evacuation

- Developed by the MFB in 2005 after reviewing designs of tall buildings > 25m EH

# Background

## GL-31 – Use of lifts for evacuation (cont.)

- Settings included—
  - Highly populated commercial buildings
  - Buildings purposely designed to support people with mobility impairments
  - Residential buildings providing a single stair (performance solution)



# Background

## GL-31 – Use of lifts for evacuation (cont.)

- Settings included—
  - Highly populated commercial buildings
  - Buildings purposely designed to support people with mobility impairments
  - **Residential buildings providing a single stair (performance solution)**



# GL-31 development & review process

## Insight from recent intervention experience

- Evacuation of high-rise buildings including residential and highly populated office buildings
- Equitable evacuation for occupants of various levels of mobility



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# GL-31 development & review process

## Is there a continuing need for the guideline?

- Changes to strategic planning policy framework impacting metropolitan Melbourne, inner and middle ring suburbs have been implemented
- More people living and working in taller buildings, with varying degrees of mobility



# GL-31 development & review process

## Is there a continuing need for the guideline?

- We still do not have a prescriptive solution in the NCC
- Is FRV's position still relevant?

*“FRV is supportive of design proposals that provide appropriate, supplementary methods of access and egress, which best support the occupants who live and use these buildings.”*



# GL-31: The changes

## Contemporary Literature Review

- Section 3008 of the International Building Code (IBC)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Technical Note 1825
- White Paper of Thompson “Using lifts during a fire – An evacuation design guide”



# GL-31: No change

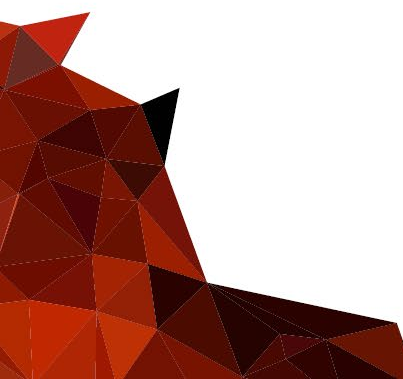
## Regulatory Document Review

- National Construction Code (NCC) – Limited Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions, Performance Requirement D1P7 – Evacuation Lifts
- *Informative:* Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) Handbook – Lifts used during an Evacuation



## GL-31: Fire brigade intervention objective

- Dialogue and meaningful stakeholder consultation at the conceptual design phase
- Preservation of operational response activities for responding firefighters where lifts for evacuation is proposed



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# GL-31: Considerations specific to FB intervention

- Number of lifts proportionate to occupant population
- Provision of dedicated firefighter emergency lift
- CCTV in Fire Control Room – visual perspective of lift lobbies, refuges and within lift cars



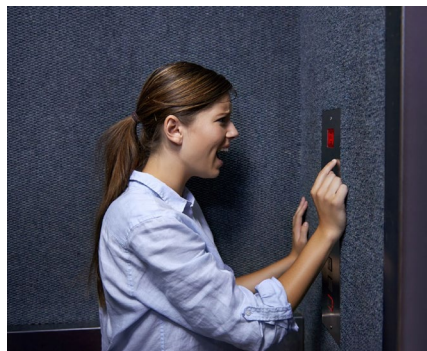
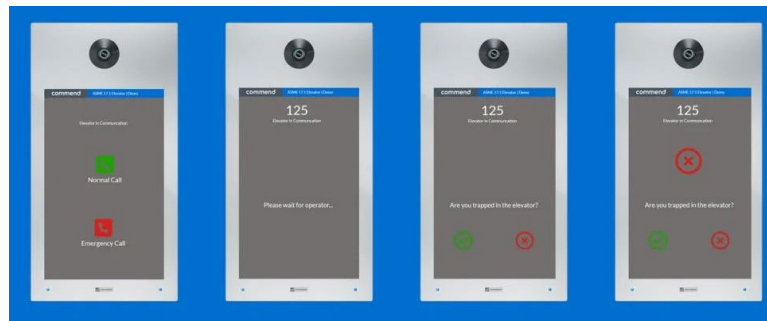
# GL-31: Considerations specific to FB intervention

- Real time visual identification of lift locations and lobby/refuge areas



# GL-31: Considerations specific to FB intervention

- Lift control panels – recall function and control override
- Lift security features – visual indication of lift status, communication between lift cars and Fire Control Room



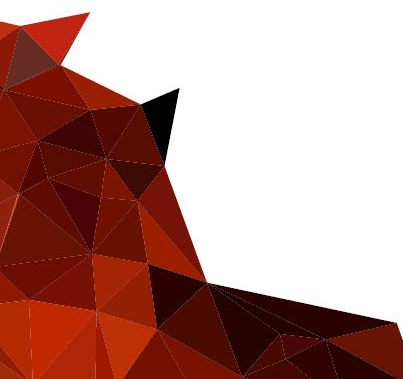
# GL-31: Emergency management planning objectives

- Develop emergency management plan
- Emergency control organisation establishment
- PEEPs
- Regular scheduled evacuation training
- Practicing the use of communication infrastructure within the lift (combined ECO & FRV activity)



## GL-31: Additional considerations

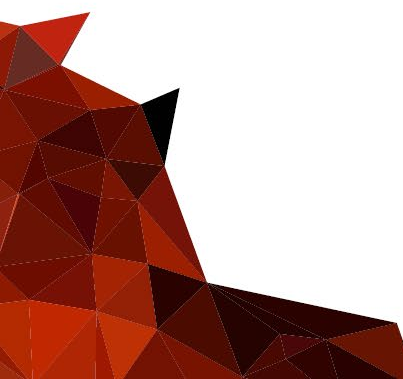
- Maintenance obligations
  - Routine conditions and preventative controls
- Evacuation diagrams and signage
  - Active diagrams and signage alongside voice generated messaging



# GL-31 Use of lifts for evacuation

## Additional Information

- Downloadable from the [www.frv.vic.gov.au](http://www.frv.vic.gov.au)



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