

ESCALATORS & TRAVELATORS

Many incidents involve misuse of escalators or transporting heavy goods, trolleys, strollers etc that are not meant to be carried on them. Some Centres have installed barricades to ensure that these are only used by pedestrians. **Signs should be provided to direct people to nearest lifts or ramps.**

- For security and liability reasons, any CCTV system should always provide coverage of these areas.
- Warning signs are often placed on the inside of the escalator close to the skirting and may not be always clearly visible. These signs, wherever possible, should be more prominently positioned and pictorial.
- Must be fitted with emergency stop buttons at either end. These should be recessed or covered to prevent accidental operation. Tenants and employees who work near escalators should be instructed on how to turn them off and on.
- Landings at either end must be kept safe, clean and dry at all times.
- There should be no obstructions such as displays, pot plants, rails etc to hamper movement of passengers.
- There should be no distracting signs, displays, mirrors, strong lights etc to hamper concentration or vision.
- “Trap points” created between the escalator and the underside of the floor it passes through have caused fatalities to people leaning over the side and should be guarded (see photos below).
- Travelator treads should be coated with a non-slip surface.
- All required guards, skirts and comb plates should be in place and immediately replaced if damaged or worn.
- Comprehensive maintenance program must be in place as per relevant Regulations and Standards. All maintenance, incidents and other issues should be very well documented.
- Whenever problems are noted the device should be switched off, barricaded and the maintenance contractors informed immediately.
- The design of most escalators includes an inclined ledge located on the outside of the moving handrail. This means that it is possible for a child to attempt to ride up the outside of the escalator by holding onto the moving handrail and placing their feet on this ledge. Escalators in many buildings reach a significant height above the floor below which in turn means that a person attempting to ride the escalator in this manner is likely to incur a serious injury should they fall from the ledge. Several fatalities have occurred in recent years.

It is therefore recommended that guards be installed at the lower ends of these ledges to reduce the likelihood that a child will be able to ride up the ledge in the manner described above. The guards should be designed and positioned at such a height from the floor that a fall is not likely to result in serious injury should they dislodge a child attempting to ride up the ledge. However, the guard cannot be too low as it will then be easy to bypass. (see photos below)

References

- AS 1735.1-1999 Lifts, escalators and moving walks – General requirements

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Barriers at Heathrow Airport to prevent trolleys being taken onto escalators.



Trap points such as where escalators pass through floors have caused fatalities and should be guarded.



Example of an escalator guard designed to prevent travel up the outside.

[SEE ALSO SAFETY ALERT ESCALATORS](#)

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