Subject: GARAVENTA Stair Platform Lifts – Leading Edges Operation

Sent to: All Contractors for Lifts for Disabled in Scope U5 & U6 and Consultants

1. ORDER TO CONTRACTORS MAINTAINING GARAVENTA STAIR PLATFORM LIFTS

On your next maintenance visit of each GARAVENTA stair platform lift and not later than 90 days from the date of this Revised Bulletin, whichever comes first:

(a) You shall operate the stair platform lift in the up direction and activate the leading edge of the under-platform safety surface (see B in Figure 1), making sure that you do not simultaneously activate the leading edge of the loading ramp (see A in Figure 1).

WARNING: Ensure personal safety while performing this test!

(b) If the lift stops, no further action is required.

(c) If the lifts fails to stop, you shall provide immediately a copy of this Bulletin to the lift licensee/owner and point to the Order specified in Section 2 of this Bulletin.

2. ORDER TO OWNER/LICENSEES OF GARAVENTA STAIR PLATFORM LIFTS

If your lift failed to stop when the maintenance contractor performed the test specified in 1(a) of this Bulletin you shall:

(a) Immediately instruct all persons, authorized to operate the lift, to the following:

   (a1) Riders and attendants, not to cause platform to move unless they have a clear view of the lift runway,

   (a2) Riders to face the direction of travel when travelling up and check for any obstruction, in particular presence of people in order to ensure that moving platform shall not impact on any such obstruction.

   Exception to (a2): On lifts that were previously equipped with signs requiring the riders to always position the wheelchair on the platform as to “face down” [typically in the case of low over-platform clearances], the riders shall be instructed to “observe the up-direction of travel” or to require assistance of an attendant while riding in the up direction.

(b) Not later than six month from the date of this Bulletin, permanently attach a label to each lift operating station, summarizing the instructions stated in (a) above.

   • Example for the label: “WARNING: Face UP when travelling up. Stop before reaching people or any obstruction.”
Where the Exception to (a2) applies, the label may read “WARNING”: Position wheelchair as required. If not able to observe up-direction of travel, ask for assistance of an attendant when travelling up”.

(c) Upon your request (telephone 905-664-3376) Garaventa is committed to provide you, with self-adhesive labels, free of charge.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Concerns have been raised in regards to the operational safety for several models of Garaventa stair platforms lifts; specifically that the platform may not automatically stop when it engages an obstruction with the leading edge, marked B in the figure.

3.2 Garaventa confirmed that older (Garaventa) lifts are so designed or wired as not to stop when only edge marked B is engaged; however it would stop should the edge of the loading ramp (see A in Figure 1) be engaged. Garaventa considers it extremely unlikely that only edge “B” would be obstructed without simultaneous engagement of the edge “A”. By reviewing records of reported accidents or incidents on ten thousand units worldwide over ten years interval Garaventa has found none attributed to the concern in 3.1

3.3 However, regardless how remote the risk is, Garaventa decided to make operational the switches activated by edges “B” on all new installations. For existing installations which may not stop when edge B is engaged, Garaventa recommends to impose strict operational procedures and to post warning signs.

3.4 No concerns have been expressed with respect to the operation of the edges marked “C” and “D”. Both remain operational on all Garaventa lifts, when travelling in the down-direction.

3.5 All data and procedures included in this Bulletin are supplied by Garaventa office in Stoney Creek, Ontario.

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