



Lift Maintenance Policy

Originator:	Policy and Strategy Team
PCHA Approval Date:	January 2024
Review date:	January 2027

1	Introduction
1.1	Pine Court Housing Association (PCHA) treats the health and safety of tenants, staff, contractors and other users of its buildings of paramount importance. In meeting its health and safety duties PCHA will ensure the safe use of all lifting equipment within properties or workplaces it owns and controls.
1.2	<p>This Policy sets out PCHA’s responsibilities to comply with the relevant legislation and associated regulatory guidance on the use and maintenance of lifting equipment in properties it owns and controls. Key legislation and guidance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lifting Operation and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) • All relevant British and European standards including BS EN 81-20:2020 Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts. Lifts for the transport of persons and goods • Provision and use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) • Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1999 • The Housing Act 2004 • The Equality Act 2010 • Safety Assessment Federation Guidelines (LG 2 -Issue 03- 01/02/2018) • Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 • Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 • Building Safety Act 2022
1.3	Although PCHA is not strictly required to meet the LOLER regulations for the maintenance and safety of domestic lifting equipment in tenants’ homes, it follows the LOLER guidance as a way of meeting its wider health and safety and PUWER requirements.
1.4	<p>The application of this Policy ensures PCHA meets compliance with the outcomes of the Regulatory Framework for Social Housing in England as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat all tenants with fairness and respect • Demonstrate that they understand the different needs of their tenants, including in relation to the equality strands and tenants with additional support needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a cost-effective repairs and maintenance service to homes and communal areas that responds to the needs of and offers choices to tenants and has the objective of completing repairs and improvements right first time • Meet all applicable statutory requirements that provide for the health and safety of the occupants in their homes <p>1.5 Access and Communication</p> <p>1.5.1 PCHA is committed to ensuring that the services it provides are accessible to everyone. PCHA will seek alternative methods of access and service delivery where barriers, perceived or real may exist, that may make it difficult for people to work for PCHA or use its services.</p> <p>1.6 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights</p> <p>1.6.1 PCHA is committed to ensuring that no person or group of persons will be treated less favourably than another person or group of persons and will carry out its duty with positive regard for the following core strands of equality; Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Gender Identity / Gender Expression, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy and Maternity, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Religion and / or Belief.</p> <p>1.7.2 PCHA also recognises that some people experience disadvantage due to their socio-economic circumstances, employment status, class, appearance, responsibility for dependants, unrelated criminal activities, being HIV positive or with AIDS, or any other matter which causes a person to be treated with injustice.</p> <p>1.7.3 PCHA will also ensure that all services and actions are delivered within the context of current Human Rights legislation and will make every effort to ensure staff and others with whom PCHA works, will adhere to the central principles of the Human Rights Act (1998).</p> <p>1.8 The Policy should also be read in conjunction with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCHA CCTV Policy • PCHA Health and Safety Policy • PCHA Fire Safety Policy • PCHA Repairs, Maintenance and Planned Works Policy • PCHA Access to Properties Policy
2	Statement of Intent
2.1	<p>PCHA will endeavour to ensure that all lifts and lifting equipment in properties or workplaces it owns and controls will be in full working order at all times. Where PCHA becomes aware that lifts or lifting equipment are not operating as they should, repairs will be issued, and every effort made to remedy faults as quickly as possible subject to availability of parts.</p> <p>2.2 In domestic properties where lift faults are likely to take more than 7 days to remedy and there are vulnerable customers residing in the building (usually elderly or disabled), PCHA will carry out a review to ensure all suitable alternative arrangements are considered to reduce the impact to residents whilst a lift is out of service for an extended period. This will include provision of advice to residents, signposting to appropriate care and advocacy agencies and</p>

	<p>may include provision of temporary arrangements to allow continued access (where the building design is suitable for these measures) for example, stair lifts.</p>
2.3	<p>Where a lift may be out of service for extended period of time, PCHA will keep residents informed of the nature of the problem and the likely timescales to return services to normal, by a combination of personal contact, written notification and signage on and around any lifts affected.</p>
2.4	<p>PCHA will ensure that all lifts in properties it owns, and controls will be fully accessible for disabled users (as per the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and to the specifications outlined in Part M of the Building Regulations 2004).</p>
2.5	<p>PCHA will meet all of its legal requirements and associated guidelines in regard to lift safety operations (as outlined in the LOLER 1998, PUWER 1998 Regulations and HSE Guidelines Note, PM 26, Safety at Lift Landings) via a combination of regular inspections, thorough examinations and periodic routine maintenance of all lifting equipment within properties it owns and controls.</p>
2.6	<p>PCHA will maintain appropriate records of any inspections or remedial works undertaken. As per LOLER, the 'Competent Person' (i.e. an approved contractor) will notify PCHA followed by a report to the enforcing authority (Local Health and Safety Executive) of any defects that present an 'existing or imminent risk of serious injury' as required.</p>
2.7	<p>PCHA will ensure there are clear procedures in place that are communicated to and understood by all relevant staff, for appropriate action in the event of any persons that become trapped in lifts within buildings it owns and controls. For health and safety / insurance reasons, PCHA staff will not release any persons trapped in lifts but will provide reassurance until such time as the relevant lift maintenance operators or emergency services arrive, as appropriate. PCHA have a service level agreement with lift maintenance operators that requires they will respond to any cases of entrapment within a one-hour timeframe.</p>
2.8	<p>PCHA call handlers that are contacted via emergency intercom control systems in cases of entrapment will follow a scripted risk assessment to determine the medical condition of any persons that are trapped. If there is any urgent concern for the persons' welfare, the call-handlers will request the emergency services to attend immediately.</p>
2.9	<p>PCHA will ensure that all lifting equipment that is used on sites it owns and controls for construction purposes (that is covered by LOLER Regulations 1998) is thoroughly examined by a competent person before it is put into use and is subject to periodic examinations.</p>

3	Policy
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3.1	<p>Duty Holders and Competent Person Responsibilities</p>
3.1.1	<p>PCHA as the owner of properties and buildings where lifts and lifting equipment is situated will be the 'Duty Holder' with responsibility for the operation, condition (maintenance) and compliance with the relevant statutory requirements. This will include taking action (within the advised timescales) to remedy any faults or defects with lifting equipment identified through testing, inspection, preventative maintenance or thorough examination.</p>

3.1.2 To ensure the above responsibilities are discharged, PCHA will appoint a ‘Competent Person’ (the Building Safety & Compliance Manager) who will work in conjunction with the PCHA Insurers and specialist contractors including the following:

- To oversee the testing, inspection, preventative maintenance and thorough examination regime for lifting equipment and ensure it is carried out by suitably skilled and competent operatives in accordance with the Safety Assessment Federation Guidelines (Thorough Examinations to be carried out by lift maintenance contractors nominated by PCHA Insurers, all other testing, remedial and maintenance works to be carried out by contractors appointed direct by PCHA). This will also include ensuring all contractors meet their required health and safety obligations
- To report any defects identified back to the PCHA ‘Duty Holder’ and where appropriate to the relevant enforcing authority (Local Health and Safety Executive) and issue works to remedy faults

3.1.3 The Competent Person will also have responsibility for drawing up and maintaining PCHA’s Examination Scheme in conjunction with the PCHA Insurers (See 3.3 below).

3.2 As part of its service standard developed and reviewed in consultation with customers, PCHA operate the following response times for dealing with responsive repairs to lifts:

- Emergency Repairs – respond and complete works or make safe within 24 hours
- Urgent Repairs - respond and complete works within 5 working days
- Routine Repairs - respond and complete works within 20 working days
- Manufactured Items and Small Projects - where manufactured parts are required or for any other reason repairs cannot be completed within 20 working days these will be classified as ‘priority X’. In these circumstances PCHA will endeavour to resolve issues as expediently as is possible, keeping customers informed of expected timescales to restore to full working order)

3.2.1 In addition to the above, PCHA will expect the following actions to be completed in the timescales indicated:

- Entrapment of persons within lifts – Lift contractor to attend within 1 hour
- Emergency breakdown – lift contractor to attend within 4 hours

3.3 The PCHA Examination Scheme

3.3.1 The Examination Scheme involves a thorough examination and includes a detailed schedule of checks, appropriate examination techniques and testing requirements, drawn up to suit the operating conditions of a specific item of lifting equipment. The specifics of the PCHA examination scheme are outlined below:

<p>Thorough Examination of all lifting equipment</p>	<p>A detailed and systematic examination of the lifting equipment to detect any defects that are or might become dangerous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passenger lift every six months • Stairlifts every 12 months • Through Floor Lifts, Hoists, Platform Lifts every 6 months 	<p>Carried out by contractors – nominated by PCHA Insurers (member of Lift and Escalator Industry Association)</p>
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3.3.2 The Competent Person will review the Examination Scheme periodically and following each 'Thorough Examination'.

3.4 Routine Maintenance

3.4.1 In addition to the checks carried out under the examination scheme, PCHA will carry out regular routine maintenance of all lifting equipment as below:

Activity	What is involved	Frequency	Who carries it out
Routine Maintenance of all lifting equipment	Checking and replacing worn or damaged parts, lubrication, replacing time-expired components, topping up fluid levels and making routine adjustments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passenger lifts - monthly• Domestic lifts- once in 12 months	Carried out by contractors – appointed direct by PCHA (member of Lift and Escalator Industry Association)

3.5 Acting on information

3.5.1 PCHA will act on any recommendations for remedial action that result from either operation of the Examination Scheme or through Routine Maintenance within accepted timescales.

3.5.2 PCHA will take immediate action for any significant defect that causes a risk to users of lifting equipment and will take lifts out of service until such time as the fault can be completely and safely remedied.

3.6 Record Keeping

3.6.1 PCHA will ensure that an electronic record is kept for all inspections and 'Thorough Examination' through its Examination Scheme and of all 'Routine Maintenance' that takes place on lifting equipment. Electronic copies of all examination records will be sent to PCHA for archiving and will also be available on the service provider's portal. Records for all other inspections and maintenance work will be held direct by PCHA (each individual entry being stored for a minimum of 2 years). The Competent Person will also be able to produce hard copies of the records if required by the local enforcement authority (Local Health and Safety Executive).

3.6.2 PCHA will also keep a record of any entrapment incidents and will use these to inform any potential revisions of the Examination Scheme.

3.7 Equipment Standards (Including Disability Access)

3.7.1 PCHA will ensure that all lifts in buildings it owns and controls, comply with the relevant equality legislation (including the Equality Act 2010) and meet all health and safety requirements. This will include provision of lifts that:

- Prevent a person using them from being crushed, trapped, stuck or falling from the carrier (the lift carriage)
- Have safety devices that prevent a carrier from falling

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that if a person becomes trapped in a carrier they are not exposed to any danger • Are clearly signposted • Are equipped with emergency lighting • Have intercom facilities linked to a central control point (manned 24 hours a day) that is easily accessible • Have voice announcement systems for floor arrival and door closing • Carriage and landing call dwell times with a 5 second delay • Have Braille floor numbering and safety instructions and other tactile controls • Are of sufficient size and capacity to allow wheelchair access (i.e. at least 1100mm wide and 1400mm long) • Have carriers that will not move unless the doors are fully closed and that prevent users from being crushed when entering and leaving.
3.8	Aids and Adaptations (Lifting Equipment) – inspection requirements
3.8.1	In addition to the requirements to ensure passenger lifts are operational and safely maintained, PCHA is required to ensure the safe use of lifting equipment installed in properties it owns and controls as part of aids and adaptations installations to assist disabled customers. Examples include through-floor lifts, stair lifts and bath hoisting equipment.
3.8.2	PCHA will ensure a Thorough Examination is carried out of all known aids and adaptations designed for lifting operations, in properties it owns and controls.
3.8.3	PCHA will respond and take remedial action for any defects identified during regular use in line with the normal provisions of its repairs and maintenance regime. PCHA will treat all requests of this nature as an urgent priority and will seek to remedy faults, where possible, within 24 hours of being reported (see 3.2).
4	Implementation
4.1	All PCHA staff have responsibility for ensuring the safety for persons that use buildings it owns and / or controls in line with general Health and Safety regulations. Whilst not all staff will have specific duties in regard to ensuring the safety of persons using lifting equipment in PCHA controlled buildings, they will need to have an awareness of the Policy and supporting procedures to deal with any customer queries that may arise.
4.2	The Building Safety and Compliance Manager will have specific responsibilities in regard to the operation of the PCHA Lift Maintenance Policy (which are outlined in detail in section 3.1).
5	Performance
5.1	PCHA have a target to carry out all required passenger lift inspections in line with prescribed frequencies.

6	Consultation			
6.1	All PCHA staff have been consulted in the development of the Policy. The PCHA Customer Empowerment Panel have been consulted in the development of this Policy.			
7	Review			
7.1	The Policy will be reviewed at least once every Three Years from the date of approval to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness or as required by the introduction of new legislation or regulation that impacts on the obligations of PCHA.			
8	Equality Impact Assessment			
8.1	Was a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) required?	No		
8.2	When was EIA conducted and by who?	An EIA Relevance Test was conducted by the Policy and Strategy Manager and the Quality and Inclusion Officer in January 2024.		
8.3	Results of EIA	Although, it is recognised that there could potentially be differential impacts for elderly and disabled service users (in the event of lift failures or breakdown) the measures PCHA puts in place to provide additional support for these groups sufficiently mitigates any additional risks.		
9	Scheme of Delegation			
9.1	Responsible committee for approving and monitoring implementation of the policy and any amendments to it	Departmental Management Team		
9.2	Responsible officer for formulating policy and reporting to committee on its effective implementation	Director of Operations		
9.3	Responsible officer for formulating, reviewing and monitoring implementation of procedures	Director of Operations		
10	Amendment Log			
Date of revision:		Reason for revision:	Consultation record:	Record of amendments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19th March 2021 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with the review schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See section 6 above 	Relevant legislation updated at 1.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th April 2022 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with the review schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See section 6 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change at 3.3.1- the section has been reworded to include the following:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passenger lift every six months ○ Stairlifts every 12 months ○ Through Floor Lifts, Hoists, Platform Lifts every 6 months
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 22nd January 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In line with the review schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See section 6 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are no significant changes in this review ● The EIA Relevance Test has been updated ● In line with Board approved process the review period for this Policy will now be every Three years rather than annually