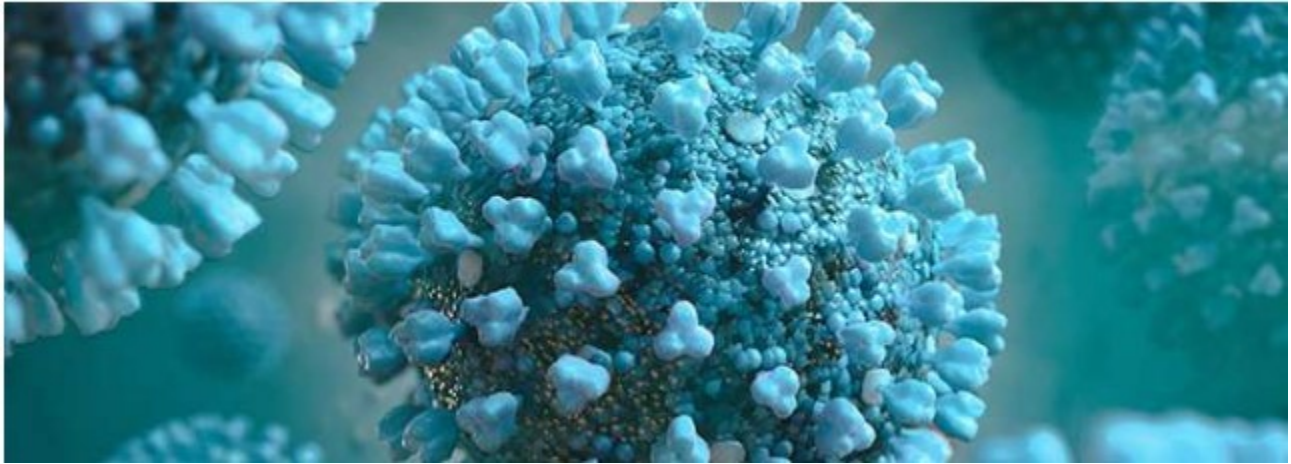


Palea Statement

COVID – 19 (Coronavirus) Statement on “Essential Services”



The safety of the public when using Elevators and safety of all lift technicians who maintain and service the equipment are the highest priorities for PALEA, Association members, Industry members and respective Government Authorities.

Elevators have always been indispensable for providing safe and efficient transportation in buildings, and in particular residential apartments, hospitals/medical facilities, shopping centres and office towers. During this time of the Coronavirus pandemic they play an even more crucial role in ensuring people can carry out vital activities such as shopping for essential items or receiving deliveries of the same, which is particularly important for the elderly and disabled, where their restricted movements and isolation can be weeks on end.

Furthermore, critical patient care is another obvious area where elevators can, and do play life-saving roles.

Medical and emergency services personnel need fully-functioning elevators in order to reach and treat those that are ill or in need of medical treatment. An elevator is critical in any of these situations, and becomes even more critical during a widespread virus outbreak, such as what we are facing today.

Palea Statement

In addition, elevators are crucial for business continuity in places such as distribution centres, or areas of mass-transit and public infrastructure. These are complex areas where essential goods need to be moved, food and medical supplies need to be delivered, and critical healthcare workers need to commute to work, to name a few.

An elevator which is inadequately maintained presents risks to person using it or people who are in the building where it is situated. Therefore, providing adequate maintenance is absolutely fundamental to keep lifts safe and operational. In today's circumstances, with people increasingly working from home, many stores, businesses and schools are closed, therefore residential lifts in apartment blocks are seeing a significant increase in operating hours. This increases the need for regular maintenance. Therefore, performing ongoing preventative maintenance and other repair services, such as responding to call-outs to re-start lifts and to rescue trapped users from lifts which have stopped due to a fault, is absolutely necessary and an essential service.

Industry member companies have provided education and training for technicians concerning their health and wellbeing and working instructions in order to mitigate risks when working on site during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Industry member companies also provide appropriate protective equipment and ongoing work instruction, inclusive of National regulations and measures introduced by National Government authorities. The industry is committed to prioritizing the health and safety of the public while conducting this essential work in the safest and most efficient manner possible.

For Escalators, PALEA shares similar concerns regarding the readiness for operation and having equipment in service. Escalators are also essential for people transportation, particularly at mass-transit hubs or at public transport facilities.

Given that Elevators and Escalators are "Essential Services" particularly at this time of the Corona virus pandemic, PALEA respectfully requests that the relevant National Government Authorities in Asia Pacific include the maintenance and service of Elevators and Escalators as a "critical activity" and "essential service", thereby giving permission for the free and unrestricted movement of lift maintenance and service technicians during the course of their required service activities.

PALEA Team Wishing You a SAFE YEAR!

PALEA Management Committee