

RECEIVEDSM
25 MAR 2009

BY: LACA

Submission No 125

Dear sir/madam,

I have noticed in the Premises Standards that there is coverage of matters related to visual impairment, but inadequate attention to an aspect of way finding that I have noticed affects a large number of people, but particularly those with a visual or dyslexic type disability.

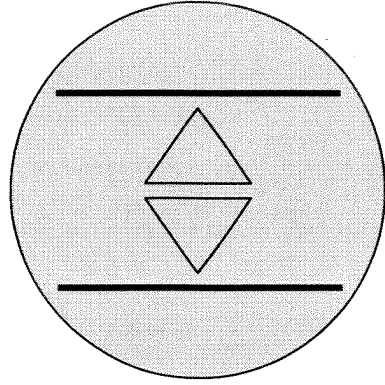
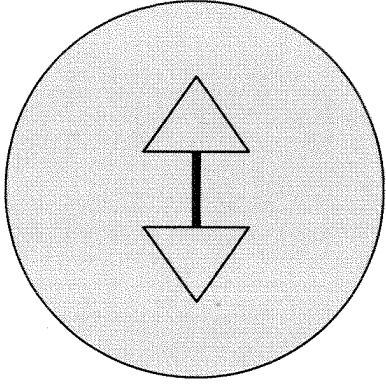
The particular matter is that the door control buttons in lifts, if designed according to the current Australian Standard (as I understand) are confusing to many people, including some with dyslexia (visual confusion) and with visual impairment. The symbols for open and close are too similar to be safely and reliably distinguished. I note that frequently people are struck by doors that are closing when a person in the lift, in attempting to hold the doors open for them has inadvertently struck the wrong button.

A related problem is that lifts with halogen downlights have insufficient lighting to vertical surfaces to allow controls to be easily discerned by anyone, let alone the visually impaired. The vertical shadows thus cast also present the visually impaired with a very threatening environment when entering a lift full of people whose faces and even positions are not easy to distinguish.

I would also suggest that access to buildings would be simplified if all buildings were required to term the street entry floor the Ground Floor (may buildings assign an arbitrary number to this floor, making egress by selecting a lift button problematic and confusing elderly, disabled and those unfamiliar with high rise buildings), with floors above numbered consecutively, and those below numbered B1...Bn.

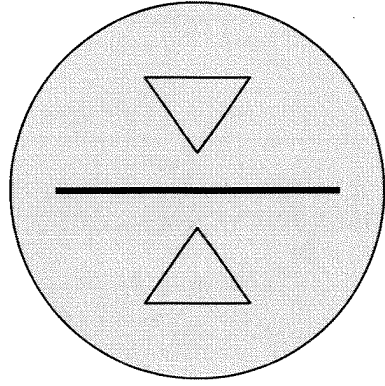
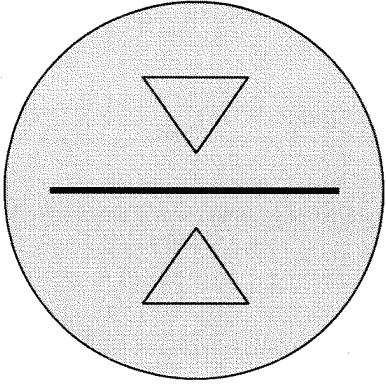
A diagram attached illustrates a lift button solution where the open and close button are clearly different and assist people with visual and dyslexic impairment to distinguish between them easily and speedily.

David Green



Open

OR



Close