

Lift Inspectors Association of South Africa

Technical Education Communication No. 44



January 2011

In compliance with the *Engineering Professions Act (No. 46 of 2000)* requirements, LIASA endeavours to assist her members in keeping up on technological developments that impact on their registration. LIASA most earnestly support ECSA in their search for *professional service excellence and pursuit of continued professional development*. EDUCOM keeps you up to date on ECSA and industry related news.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: *Chairman: Sanjeev Singh; D/Chair: Bill Murphy; Treasurer: David Kleinhans; Secretary: Dr Theo Kleinhans; EXCO: Terence Baker; Ronnie Branders; Willem du Toit; Micky Martin; Brendan Trower*

DOYENS OF THE LIFT INDUSTRY: *Buddie Cerone (2004); Schalk van der Merwe (2005); Dr Theo Kleinhans (2006); Willem du Toit (2008); Bruno Isler (2009); Alfie da Silva (2010); Manny Perreira (2010)*

ECSA & LIRC MEETING SCHEDULE 2011

Kindly take note that the ECSA 2011 schedule has been released, to be followed by the LIRC meetings the day after, as follows ...

- LIRC Tuesday 8th February @ 09:00 at ECSA
- LIASA Wed. 9th February @ 09:00 at Jeppe Quondam
- LIRC Tuesday 12th April @ 09:00 at ECSA
- LIASA Wed. 13th April @ 09:00 at Jeppe Quondam
- LIRC Tuesday 14th June @ 09:00 at ECSA
- LIASA Wed. 15th June @ 09:00 at Jeppe Quondam
- LIRC Tuesday 16th August @ 09:00 at ECSA
- LIASA Wed. 17th August @ 09:00 at Jeppe Quondam
- LIRC Tuesday 11th October @ 09:00 at ECSA
- LIASA Wed. 12th October @ 09:00 (AGM) at Jeppe Quond.

Kindly print this page out and stick next to your office desk so that timeous scheduling can be effected to attend every meeting. To dovetail into the ECSA admin year, we have moved our AGM from June to October, in order for the incumbent LIASA committee to complete their tasks for the year.



CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE - 2011

Colleagues, members of our industry and friends, the Executive of LIASA sincerely hope that you and your families have had a joyous and safe festive season. With the start of the new year now behind us, we can all focus on the business at hand:

*Recognised Voluntary Association in terms of
Educom fulfills a requirement for Continued Professional Development*

- a) Implementation and compliance with the new OHSAct regulations.
- b) Commence and communicate the activities to guarantee our members their Category One CPD Points.
- c) Formalisation and acceptance of guideline "paperwork" so necessary to effect the above.
- d) The restructure of meetings to a more amenable schedule.

From a perspective purely resulting from discussions, observations and inspections, I am deeply disappointed that the new lift regulations are not being implemented *verbatim*, despite the celebratory atmosphere when the regulations were promulgated. We are finding on a daily basis, a fervent attempt to look for loopholes, lift companies that are blatantly ignorant of the requirements, Lift Inspectors that seem not to understand their role and building owners with no apparent regard for safety.

My personal assurance is that 2011 will be different. We have already forged a significant partnership with DOL, the partnership with SANAS will be formalised in February and we are busy formalising a relationship with the Insurance controlling bodies. This plague that we have all been complacent about has to stop. Sadly, seeing that we have been unable to correct the situation on our own, we are duty-bound to involve all external stakeholders in a unified quest for total compliance of safety and standards.

*"Whoever is careless with the truth on small matters,
cannot be trusted with important matters."
Albert Einstein*

It is as simple as that! We take pleasure in leaving you with this centuries old Irish blessing for 2011 ...

*May the road rise to meet you;
May the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Anonamous



We regularly long for the days when the most important word in our business relationships was "TRUST", coupled to customer service excellence? The industry we are involved in is fast becoming known as "cowboy territory", with too many cowboys and not enough territory. It is up to us to change that perception. Otherwise ... WHO ELSE WILL?

Never before have we encountered such a volume of accidents, serious incidents, litigation, conflict between various parties and just blatant arrogance. **Where are we heading?** Ask yourself ...

which side of the fence do you want to be on?

Sanjeev

Singh

*"Each day is an opportunity to start all over again ...
To clarify your vision, crystallize your thoughts...
and to decide on the road forward."*

Joseph Petty

WELCOME TO JANUARY 2011

2010 Came and went much quicker than we could ever anticipate - Is this a sign of growing old? Reflecting on the experiences of 2010, we naturally enter a progressive new year with many New Year's resolutions, hoping to improve on what we did well in our work and negating our mistakes to the minimum, all within our individual human capacity and level of competence. Psychologists state that reflecting on the past when looking to the future, is a natural characteristic for normal people for it takes them from the 'known' which they have to build on and develop to meet the 'unknown'. What is *life* if we cannot learn from the past experiences in both success and failures?

The most important lesson learnt in 2010 for us was that *truth* must prevail. If one *lives* in truth for *truth*, then it can be said that you can be trusted for your word is your bond. You are aware that people enter into some kind of *contract* every day in every sphere of life. Whether business, friendship or simply an unknown client trusting you with a new inspection mandate, it is all in the belief that you can and will deliver to their expectations.

In a nutshell, our lives are built on *truth, hope* and *trust* - Trust keeps hope alive, for ...

Without truth, there can be no trust!

Albert Einstein is quoted as having said that ...

*"Whoever is careless with the truth on small matters,
cannot be trusted with important matters."*

*"Whatever you do ...
Do it with your whole heart and soul."*

Bernard Barach

SANAS CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY

Persuant to the OHSAct LER (Lift & Escalator Regulations) published on 17th September 2010 (Government Gazette No.9380), the main roll-players in the Lift Industry have been invited to attend a one-day conference-workshop in Boksburg on Thursday 3rd February, to decide on the way forward with the proposed accreditation of Registered Lift Inspectors.

The workshop is sponsored by SANAS, through Communications & Marketing Manager Ms Molamu Tshenolo. Senior DoL managers Messrs Jakes Malatse and Hlaks Monyaki will also be in attendance. The focus of the workshop will be on the *accreditation* of lift, escalator and passenger conveyor *inspection bodies* within the Lift Industry.

The workshop will be held between 08:00 and 16:00 at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Boksburg. Since attendance is by invitation, subject to RSVP directly to Ms Tshenolo at SANAS, no further *ad hoc* attendees can be accepted, so phoning Bonny Peden will not help.

We will keep you informed.



KONE TRAINING CENTRE NEWLY ACCREDITED

We received a courtesy copy of the MERSETA accreditation document, verifying Kone's right to train apprentices and learners within the Metal Engineering Industry collective bargaining categories for the Lift Industry.

Congratulations to MD Alan Underwood and his executive team for their foresight. Kone now join the exalted ranks of Otis (circa 1976) and Schindler (February 1980) with formal industry accredited training centres. The Manager appointed in charge of Kone's training center is well-known Wanda Maqutu.



PROPOSED NEW TOLLROAD SYSTEM

We were working on the revised costs for the 2011 portfolio inspection schedules, when the soon-to-be-applied SANAS accreditation and proposed Gauteng toll-road system costs were considered.

The SANAS accreditation is still some way off, with costs probably only becoming effective towards the end of the year. It becomes very obvious that the full accreditation cost will have to be configured into the overall inspection and project management costs. The toll-road system however, is an *ad hoc* expense, only applicable in certain areas and certain freeways effective from April 2011.

It came to mind that we cannot help but think that the South African Government must have a blind, indefatigable faith in its people, despite the widespread crime, corruption and lawlessness that prevails. Considering the proposed new toll-road system for the Gauteng Freeways, there is little empirical evidence that offenders will be prosecuted for not paying their toll fees. Taxis are already exempted, so as not to raise the eyre of the Taxi Association.

It appears to us that the Government hopes that most people are honest and law-abiding citizens; that they will all register and set up accounts with SANRAL, where they are now expected to load a pre-determined amount of money *in advance* into their toll-account. As the toll-roads are then used by these honest citizens, the '*deposited float*' will diminish as SANRAL debits the account. You then simply top it up again every month ... *all in your time and expense!*

What bothers us most is that there is no guarantee that faulty or fraudulent transponders will not be debited against your account, for you will have as little recourse with SANRAL as you presently have with your local municipality on rates, taxes, water and light problems. Most of us .. *have been there, done that!*

SANRAL Senior Project Manager Alex van Niekerk repeatedly claims that the new road toll system will work as fluently as cell-phone systems. He originally at concept advised that '*free*' transponders will be provided for each road user that registers with SANRAL. In a December newspaper article however, he was quoted as intending to supply these transponders at a '*moderate fee*'. So **what is the truth?** Such transponder must

then be displayed on the front dashboard or windscreen, where the overhead system can read them. Do not leave your windows open in future as your transponder is sure to be nicked by the *smash and grab brigade*.

The toll-reading gantries have now mostly been completed, installed approximately every 10km of the proposed 185km Gauteng freeway system. Van Niekerk also warned in December that the previous suggested 50¢/km may now have to be revised because of inflation, even before the system is commissioned. **"To be or not to be, there lies the rub" ... But where lies the equity?**

It is somewhat farcical to expect that all SADEC visitors (neighbouring countries) to Gauteng will drop in at a road agency to register for a temporary transponder. How will the Government invoice them two months later? Like they do with our speed-fines?

As always, we suppose the proof of efficiency will be in the application of the system, but we cannot help but wonder what sort of success ratio SANRAL will achieve among the lawless drivers that still predominate on our roads today. Perhaps they can explain how an identical vehicle to ours in model and colour, obtained a set of our Gauteng number-plates and now logs fines in Natal whilst our vehicle is parked in our garage in Johannesburg? We even received a 'speed' fine recently, travelling at 140 k/h in the Free State - the registration number belonging to our touring caravan, and it certainly hasn't been in the Free State!

*"If there's a way to do it better ... FIND IT,
and DO IT!"*

Thomas A Edison

LIFT DATA - DID YOU KNOW ???

Did you know that globally, there are now in excess of 9 million lift units in operation, excluding escalators, hoists and dumb-waiters. China is ostensibly the world leader with over a million units, followed by the USA with just under a million, Italy with 850 000; Spain with 750 000 and Japan with 700 000. A recent communication from China indicated their growth rate to be 250 000 new units per year, with South Africa an approximate lowly 250 per annum.

Speaking to Kone national Modernization Manager Hennie Hudson yesterday, we asked him what the word '*Kone*' means, as nobody has as yet been able to give us

an answer. We all know that *Elija Otis* and *Alfred Schindler* were the discovery fathers of their respective products in the USA and Switzerland, being the known family names.

Google will tell you that in the Scandanavian languages, *Kone* in Finnish means '*machine*'. In neighbouring Denmark and Norway it means '*wives*'; in Albania '*puppy*'; and in Slovakia '*horses*', so we will stay with the Finnish version. At least now we know *Kone* to mean a *machine* or in our case, more especially a '*lift machine*'.

What few people seem to know is that Kone was also founded by a family business, *Heikki Herlin*, but the exact date is not known. It is however known that in the early 1900's they celebrated their first 1000th lift with tea and cake, which then became a tradition. However by 1958 this tradition was dropped as the 1000's were coming in too fast and furious.

As recent as 1996, CEO *Antti Herlin* masterminded the 'Partek' takeover at approximately bR15,38 (yes billion), possibly the biggest ever take-over, significantly increasing Kone's international fiscal value.

Former CEO *Pekka Herlin*'s biography (by John Simon), became a non-fiction best seller in Scandanavia in 2009. Essentially, we may therefore deduce like Sherlock Homes, that *Kone* is still a '*Herlin*' family business today as much as *Nikky Schindler* is *Schindler*.

Hennie confirmed recently celebrating Kone's 100th birthday in South Africa, but could not give us an exact inception date. To the best of our knowledge, Schindler dates back to 1874 (on their logo) and Otis 1869 - Both very close, being at the height of the Industrial Revolution.

We were advised that China is now Kone's, Otis and Schindler's major manufacturing plant for lifts and escalators for the Asia-Pacific region, which includes South Africa. During 2009 and 2010, China was adjudged larger than the combined Europe and USA manufacturing demand. From what we have heard, they have their '*local*' and of course their '*export*' products, which should keep the skeptics quite who question Sino quality. We will however keep you informed of new developments as they come to hand.



DID YOU KNOW ...

- The soothing music played at NASA's space station and offices is now used in public lifts in China ... because of the calming effect of that music?
- Modernising lifts in cultural heritage sites requires the prior permission of the SA Heritage Board, where you are required to issue full design and upgrade criteria in advance, indicating that you have to the absolute maximum, retained the 'original look' in preserving

the architectural style and integrity. This becomes even more complex when military sites and places of worship are involved.

- The world's tallest MWT: (micro-wave tower). We were wondering which MWT in South Africa is the tallest? From a recent publication, the world's tallest is under-stood to be Germany's Berlin MWT at 365m - called '*Fernsehturm*'. Three ASEA-Graham lifts were originally installed in the MWT in 1967. They were then upgraded by Kone in 1995, but we were unable to extract the technical details of load, speed, drive and control. Perhaps Hennie Hudson can find out and advise us.

In South Africa however, it appears to be a toss-up between the Brixton, Hillbrow and Lucas Rand MWT's for the tallest. Perhaps TFMC National Facilities Manager Mr Dean Mutambanengwe can find out and advise us accordingly.

We know that Kone upgraded the three Mitsubishi lifts in the Pretoria Lucas Rand MWT with new AC V3F Gearless at 5,0 m/s. We understand that the Hillbrow MWT with three Schindler DC gearless units at 5,0 m/s is next in turn for upgrade. From what we remember, the motor room at Hillbrow is at 197m off street level, equivalent to 66 floors.

We walked up the stairs often enough during construction and final commissioning. During commissioning Swiss Hanspeter Burri from St Galen actually took his stretcher and gas-stove equipment up to the motor room, preferring to sleep there during the final several weeks of commissioning and fine-tuning. We remember because we slept there a night or three when we were too tired to go home in the early hours of the morning ... *those were the days ...*

"You may never know what results come from your action.

But if you do nothing ... there will be no result"

Gandhi

Mabatma

TUT LIFT INSPECTORS COURSE

Thank you for all the phone-calls to Bonnie from aspirant candidates. Regrettably, we still await details of the next course from TUT. Willem

du Toit has offered to chase this up in the New Year. The last we heard, it was destined to be in the 2nd to 3rd week of February 2011.



*"You may be disappointed when you fail,
but are doomed if you don't try!"*

Beverly Sills

2011'S STRESS ON RLI'S

Judging by the past few years, 2011 will be no less stressful in vying for lift inspections and project management contracts. Exacerbating the situation, will be the time factor in attendance *ex gratia* of the many Lift Industry meetings and work-shops in our own time and cost. One of the best ways to combat this stress is to maintain a healthy anti-stress diet, which as an added bonus, also contain the most anti-oxidant and cholesterol fighters. So if you want to live healthy and stress free, work the following into you diet - *It has worked for us since 1995 ...*

- **Bananas:** - Rich in potassium to soothe the mind and reduce tension; rich in tryptophan, an amino acid that boosts serotonin and melatonin to make you feel good and sleep good, thus relaxing your cardiac system.

With breakfast being the most important meal of the day, we combine almost all the below essentials into our breakfast. Take one weetbix, top with whole-wheat, add muesli and cut in one banana; add raisins, berries and dried fruit (if not already in the muesli). Add full-cream milk to suite. NO SUGAR!

- **Whole-wheat Grains:** - Rich in vitamin B-complex & pantothenic acid to combat stress, but also rich in stress-relieving magnesium, potassium and calcium ... and don't forget the fibre, so important to keep you regular, especially on long trips.

Take as component part of the whole breakfast stated above.

- **Spinach, MBeetho, Marog & Broccoli:** - These vegeshop and wild spinaches are a power house of vitamins that replenish the body in times of stress. Rich in magnesium, it lowers your stress level and aids the heart to pump more smoothly; Also rich in vitamin 'B' and folic acid which fights anxiety, panic

and even depression - Absolutely a must for the over-40's to keep your heart healthy.

Have spinach at least once a week. Mandi (after good rains) collects all the MBeetho (Zulu), Marog (Sotho) in the garden and at the farm. This is mixed with beans, onions and potatoes and cooked; then packed into small plastic bags for two persons and frozen for use over the next few months. Broccoli is a standard part of our evening salads at least 2 to 3 times a week, eaten fresh and crisp. Cut up fresh, with grated carrots, wheat-germ, etc., and eaten cold with a light salad dressing or balsamic vinegar.

- **Yoghurt, Milk:** - Being high in calcium and the 'B' vitamins, they maintain your bone and nerve structure; also contains a good measure of mood calment tryptophan.

Milk is added to the cereals to suite. Yoghurt is taken together with your breakfast at start or end, approximately in 100g cups. Any vitamin supplements can preferably taken together whern you eat your yoghurt, such as vitamin C, calcium, magnesium and omega E, so essential for the over-40's and a must for the over-50's.

- **Grapeferuiot, Oranges, Maroelas:** - Well-known for their very high vitamin C - a very good anti-stress agent and cold/flu fighter. The body does not produce vitamin C, so you MUST stock up sufficiently on these fruits.

Take half a grapefruit or whole orange every morning with breakfast, or during the day, as available during the season.

- **Fish:** - fresh and tinned tuna & mackerel are absolutely loaded with omega-3 fatty acids that help keep your adrenaline from running out of control when very busy or heavily stressed; therefore a very good anti-stress agent. Absolutely a must for your heart.

Try and eat at least once (Wednesdays) or twice (Tuesdays and Thursdays) every week. Best suggest eating cold with salads.

- **Chicken:** - Boiled chicken (and turkey for that matter) are rich in amino acids and tryptophan which help to calm and improve your mindset. Also helps to produce stable blood-sugar levels and therefore reduce stress.

Best eaten afternoon or evening dinners as it helps you to sleep easier and more relaxed. This

is why you feel so melancholy after a chicken luncheon, just wanting to sleep.

- **Nuts, Muesli:** - Meusli is traditionally full of nuts, raisens and dried fruits as an all-in vitamin booster. Very rich in serotonin and tryptophan and packed with the various vitamins B, E, zinc and magnesium - All strong stress and heart disease fighters, regulating your stress and moods to be more calmer, especially when you work long hours and have to travel long distances.

Can be taken as a breakfast supplement. On country trips we regularly take our little grocery-box with to our B&B's so that we can at least have our muesli mixed with yoghurt (to replace the absence of milk). A mixture of nuts lies next to us on the seat for regular nibbling during long trips.

- **Berries:** - Fresh or tinned berries, especially blueberries, are crumbed full of anti-oxidants, so important for a healthy heart, being anti-cholesteral and anti-stress agents. Essentialy fights the free radicals which are a major cause of cell damage and heart attacks.

Take any time - nothing like a booster on long trips when available next to you on the seat, together with a bag of nuts for a dip any time you feel like it. Our local fruit & vegeshop stocks quite a substantial range of relatively inexpensive berries (seasonal) and nuts.

- **Dried Fruit:** - Most dried fruits, but especially apricots, are very rich in mineral magnesium, a natural stress buster. Magnesium also helps relax your muscles (remember when coach gave us slow-sodium/magnesium for muscle cramps when we still played competitive rugby?). Dried fruit are also rich in natural vitamin C to boost our immune system.

Like the berries and nuts, we travel with a bag of dried fruit when we travel - May sound expensive but beats a KFC or hamburger in health and cost any day. Apricot, peach and guava rolls are especially prized as a healthy delicacy and certainly not expensive.

NB!!! *Don't forget a few bottles of still (or sparkling) water to flush the bladder and kidneys, more especially on long trips.* Our cardiologist suggests a 500ml bottle for every hour on the road.



GOD BLESS THEE IN 2011

God bless thee (in 2011) ...

*Thy goings out, thy comings in,
thy going home, thy friends, kith and kin;
thy hopes and plans, thy work and rest,
God bless them as he seeth best;
In grief and pain, in joy and cheer,
in all He sends, God bless thy year!*

Robbie Burns

EDUCOM COMMUNICATIONS

**LIASA's contact logistics where you speak to
Bonnie, Samantha or Theo is:**

Office: (011) 402-3001

Telefax: (011) 402-3002

E-Mail: liasa@zmail.co.za

PO Box 899, Southdale, 2135

**Please forward us your newsworthy articles and photos
for dissemination to all our colleagues around the RSA.**