



**THE LIFT ACADEMY**  
C/O The Secretary  
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## **THE BIRTH OF THE LIFT ACADEMY**

You can picture the scene when an apprentice turns round to an industry elder and says "it's all very well you writing articles in Elevation and going out to do talks to people but you aren't getting to the new engineers coming through". There was a pained silence and then I realised that he was right. When I go out and do a talk the room is generally full of industry managers without an apprentice in sight. When I write an article for Elevation, or indeed any of the trade journals, it won't be an apprentice that reads it. Ironically, they won't get to see this article either! That means that there is a huge gap and a wasted opportunity for delivering industry experience to where it is really needed, and it seems, really wanted.

As a result I had a ring round of a number of Directors and senior managers I know and told them I was thinking of setting up an academy for the apprentices and that the difference between the academy and something like the CIBSE Lift Group will be that the talks would be aimed at a basic level for apprentices/trainees.

The response has been overwhelming support with the independent companies all saying that they wanted to help. As a result there will be an inaugural meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November in London. I will give a talk on the chosen topic of "BS7255:2001 section 5 Responsibilities of persons working on lifts". It is important to note that the event is purely for apprentices and trainees. Directors/Senior Managers of supporting companies are also welcome to attend. It is also important to note that attendance is **FREE OF CHARGE**

To my surprise we already have over 80 apprentices/trainees booked to attend the event and Susan Terry of Global Lift Equipment has very kindly offered to act as secretary for the academy.

If you are interested in sending someone along please do not hesitate to contact me [david.cooper@lecs.co.uk](mailto:david.cooper@lecs.co.uk) or [susan.terry@global-lift.com](mailto:susan.terry@global-lift.com) and we will gladly send you some information.

Inevitably there are some questions:

### **WHY FORM A LIFT ACADEMY?**

Because apprentices/trainees do not have access to the lecture circuit speakers or trade journal authors that traditionally present to senior managers in the industry.

Because apprentices/trainees require basic training in an academic environment.

Because apprentices/trainees need a forum to ask questions/seek information from industry mentors

Because employers require assistance in uplifting the base quality of training

Because we have a duty to improve our industry and subscribe to its longevity

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### **WHAT WILL THE ACADEMY PROVIDE?**

Organising industry speakers on topical subjects. The talks will be of a basic level aimed specifically at apprentices/trainees.

Organising factory visits

Organising above in response to both employers and employees requests.

A support network

Accessibility to information to improve log book quality

CPD (Continued Professional Development) certificates.

### **WHERE WILL THE ACADEMY MEET?**

It is proposed that the academy meets in London to start with however there is now a proposal to repeat events in Manchester.

Meetings will be early evening so as to allow the apprentices/trainees and also the speakers to work during the day

This may be expanded dependent upon the success or otherwise of the academy.

### **WHEN WILL THE ACADEMY MEET?**

It is proposed that meetings be held every 2 or 3 months on a regular agreed day to be agreed by consensus

### **WHAT THE ACADEMY WILL NOT BE**

A competitor to any training agency

A replacement for NVQ's/Log books

Competitive amongst employers – the aim must be singular in line with the aforementioned objectives to train junior staff setting out in our industry.

### **WHAT THE ACADEMY MUST/WILL BE**

Free of charge to apprentices/trainees

Non compulsory

Respected by employers and apprentices/trainees

Supported by employers

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Flexible in terms of prospectus relative to requests

Having spoken to some of my industry colleagues I have put together a prospectus of subjects which have come up as areas of interest and I intend approaching people for assistance in presenting talks on these subjects, if you want to help do feel free to contact me.

### **PROPOSED PROSPECTUS (FOR COMMENT)**

How a VF drive system works (Kollmorgen have offered to present)

How to set up a door gear (Global have offered to present)

How to inspect ropes

Overview of different drive systems

Duties under BS7255 (scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> November in London)

Overview of call handling systems

The EHSR's in the Lift Regulations

The function of "The Insurance Man"

Gearboxes – types, use, selection, inspection & typical defects

Overspeed Governors – types, use, selection, inspection & typical defects

Safety Gears – types, use, selection, inspection & typical defects

Safety Edges – types, use, selection, inspection & typical defects

Door Locks – types, use, selection, inspection & typical defects

Buffers – types, use, selection, inspection & typical defects

Plumbing a shaft

How to read drawings

At the end of the day from the support that I have received and the fact that over 80 apprentices have expressed an interest it would seem that this is an initiative with a future. All I ask is that you help me to make it a success for the youngsters starting out in our industry.

David Cooper

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