



A BRIEF PRESENTATION

EPSA was founded on 17 November 1999 in London, initially by 24 European companies and is today the main organisation representing the European manufacturers and distributors of platform lifts and stairlifts.

The EPSA secretariat is based in the UK. The growth in membership has been healthy and today 10 European countries are represented through EPSA membership.



WHAT IS EPSA DOING FOR ITS MEMBERS?

EPSA has been working extremely hard from the very beginning (1999) to seek to protect the platform and stairlift industry from the many attempts to try to diminish and to hinder our products from being legally accepted and sold in the European community.

EPSA and the EPSA members have played a major role in the drafting and the technical amendments of the European standards for stairlifts (prEN 81-40) and for lifting platforms (prEN 81-41).

EPSA is represented in the European Commission Machinery Working Group, and in the Lifts Working Group. This ensures that EPSA and its members are well informed of what is going on in the European communities with regard to these important Directives and how the decisions taken at these committees might affect manufacturers and distributors.

EPSA has lobbied for several years, with great success, to ensure that the new Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC was written in such a way that platform lifts and stairlifts would remain within the scope of the Machinery Directive and not under the Lifts Directive.



HOW EPSA WORKS

At the European level

EPSA has 3 working groups which are:

- * EU Directives and Standards
- * Marketing and Promotion
- * Self Regulation

These working groups ensure that EPSA remains focused on the necessary work to achieve our objectives and continues to act for the benefit of our members, people with impaired mobility, architects, local authorities and planners.

At the national level

EPSA has three National Committees which are: EPSA Italy, EPSA Spain and EPSA Sweden.

These allow the members from those countries to meet separately to discuss local issues of importance and report to the EPSA Board on matters that may have an impact on the European stage.

The work of these National Committees is somehow less visible, because they deal with purely national problems, but this work is certainly not less important for the EPSA members. We anticipate that more National Committees will be formed in the future.



SOME OF THE EPSA OBJECTIVES

To ensure that all accessibility products manufactured and sold by EPSA members comply with the Machinery Directive and all other relevant European legislation and standards.

To promote the European platform and stairlift industry and its products.

To safeguard the interests of our members, where commonly agreed, in all economic, technical and legislation matters.

To provide the EPSA members with the mechanism for joint input to the European legislation and standardisation process.

To assist and advise the European and national authorities on all matters involving platform lifts and stairlifts.

To encourage innovation and provide safe access solutions of a high quality for people with impaired mobility, architects and planners.

To reach a harmonisation in Europe that meets different requirements of accessibility, design and use by achieving the highest level of safety at affordable prices.