

## ***Disability Upgrades to Existing Train Stations and the Role of a C10 Fire Engineer***

*By Joyce Van*

*08 October 2020*



### **Background**

The Transport Access Program (TAP) is a NSW Government project to upgrade train stations to meet the requirements of the Federal Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (DSAPT). The Standards set out the minimum requirements for accessibility on public transport to ensure that people with disability have appropriate access to those public transport services.

Upgrades to these public train stations include the installation of elevators or accessibility ramps to access the station platform.

A copy of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002 (DSAPT) can be accessed here: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2011C00213>

### **Fire Safety Engineering for Existing Train Stations**

With the legislative changes in relation to fire engineering and building compliance since 1 July 2020, TAP Upgrade Projects necessitate the engagement of a Certifier – Fire Safety (Formerly C10 Accredited Fire Engineer).

Previous design role and ad-hoc design advice provided by the Certifying Authority in relation to extent of upgrade, maintenance of safety levels and disabled egress is no longer permitted due to new Conflict of Interest Provisions as outlined below.

*Making the world safe and secure*

📍 Sydney | Canberra | Newcastle | Kuala Lumpur | Dubai | Toronto

☎ +61 1300 761 744

🌐 [www.loteconsulting.com](http://www.loteconsulting.com)

✉ [info@loteconsulting.com](mailto:info@loteconsulting.com)

## 1.0 BDCR Schedule 5 Clause 9 Code of Conduct

The Building & Development Certifiers Regulation 2020 (BDCR) was introduced in NSW on 1 July 2020. Clause 9 of the Schedule 5 Conduct of Conduct in the BDCR states the following which applies to both Certifiers and Fire Safety Engineers:

### 9 Requirement to document reasons for decisions

A registered certifier must maintain clearly documented reasons for decisions made when carrying out certification work that set out the following---

- (a) the decision made,
- (b) the reasons for making the decision,
- (c) the findings of fact that the reasons were based upon,
- (d) the evidence for those findings.

Figure 1 - Excerpt of Schedule 5 Clause 9 of Building and Development Certifiers Regulation 2020.

## Fire Engineers Role on TAP Upgrades

Fire Engineers (Certifiers – Fire Safety) Certifiers can assist with TAP Upgrade Projects. The engineer will employ a three-step fire engineering process as per the flowchart below:



Aspects that the Fire Engineer will consider include the proposed upgrades to the train station and impacts to fire and life safety. This includes demonstrating that the proposed modifications to the train stations maintain the existing level of fire safety. Fire egress strategies can also be developed for the station for occupants with a disability who are considered as introduced occupants based on the provision of new lifts, escalators or ramps onto the station.