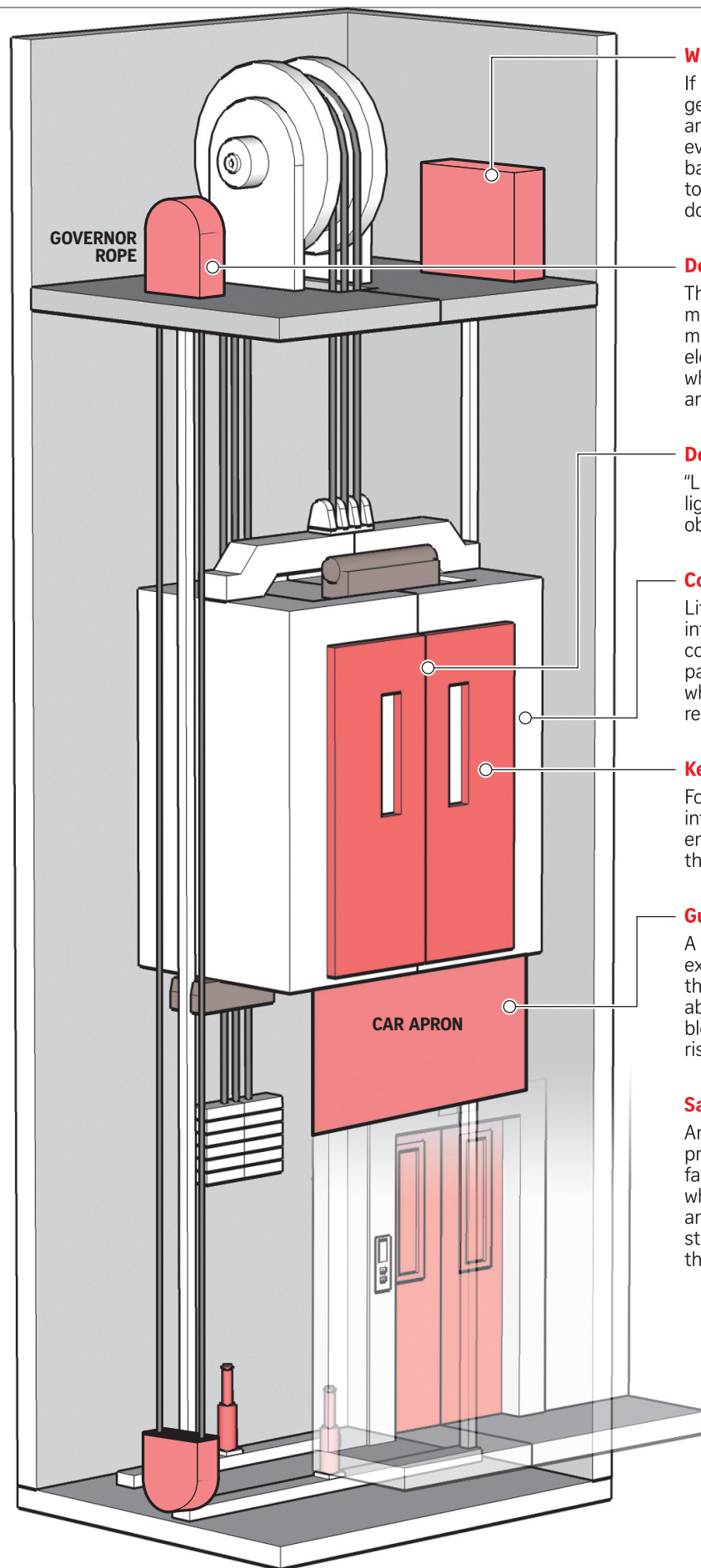


Making old lifts safer

The Building and Construction Authority is encouraging lift owners to modernise their lifts with these eight features.



When power fails

If there is no standby power generating system, lifts should have an automatic rescue device. In the event of a power failure, this battery-powered device brings the lift to the nearest landing and opens the doors so passengers are not trapped.

Detecting slack ropes

The governor rope in a lift is a safety mechanism that kicks in when the lift moves too fast. Lifts should have an electrical safety device that detects when the governing rope slackens, and stops the lift.

Door safety

"Light curtains" are beams of infrared light between lift doors that detect objects.

Communication

Lifts should have a telephone, intercom system or other communication device that lets passengers notify or talk to someone who can activate an emergency response.

Keeping doors shut

For multi-panel lift doors, an interlocking switch for each panel ensures that when the panel is open, the lift will immediately stop moving.

Guarding against falls

A "car apron" is a vertical sheet extending down from the bottom of the lift car entrance. If the lift stops above the landing, the car apron blocks off the lift shaft, reducing the risk of people falling in.

Safe movement

An "unintended car movement protection" system guards against failures of lift components. It detects when the landing door is not locked and the lift door is not closed, and stops the lift from moving away from the landing.

Controlling speed

An "ascending car over speed protection" system detects when an ascending lift car is going too fast, and forces it to stop or reduce its speed.