

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM



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**DATE:** May 22, 2009

**TO:** All contractors

**FROM:** Bill Reinke / Elevator Safety Section  
Construction Codes and Licensing Division

**PHONE:** 651 284 5873

**SUBJECT:** Elevators and Lifts in churches

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Minnesota Session Laws, 2009, Chapter 76, impacts wheelchair lifts and elevators located in churches, was passed during this year's legislative session. This new law became effective May 13, 2009 and unless there is legislative action during the next legislative session, the provisions will expire on July 1, 2010. The effect of the law is to exempt platform wheelchair lifts and elevators located or installed in churches from Minnesota Statutes, Sections 326B.163 through 326b.191 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1307 until July 1, 2010. This exemption does not apply to wheelchair lifts and elevators located in other buildings that are owned by churches.

Minnesota Session Laws, 2009, Chapter 76 can be accessed at  
<https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/laws/?id=76&doctype=Chapter&year=2009&type=0>.

The original intent of this exemption was to exempt wheelchair lifts and elevators from the annual maintenance inspections and the \$100 operating fee. However this language exempts wheelchair lifts and elevators from the elevator code new installation requirements also, it did not exempt them from the electrical code requirements where applicable.

During the effective period of this law, electrical permits for the installation of wheelchair lifts and elevators located within churches will now be required. Permits can be obtained through the Electrical Inspection Section. Inspections will be for the electrical work performed only and do not include any inspections that that may be required by the ASME A17.1. Forms and other information can be accessed at  
<http://www.electricity.state.mn.us/CCLD/ElectricalContractorForms.asp>.

Permits that were in place prior to May 13, 2009 are still applicable to the requirements in effect at the time of permit approval. A contractor may request an inspection other than the electrical inspection for the associated elevator or wheelchair lift from the Elevator Safety Section. Fees for these inspections remain the same, and are listed in Minnesota Rule Part 1307.0032. However, the \$100 annual operating permit fee of Minnesota Statute sec. 326B.184, and annual maintenance inspections and tests are not required until July 1, 2010.

Deficiencies found on a permit issued after May 13, 2009 that are related to Minnesota Rules Chapter 1307 requirements will be noted as advisory items only, and will become part of the record for the installation.

This provision of Session Law 76 only applies to wheelchair lifts and elevators in churches and does not apply to elevator equipment in other buildings owned by churches.