

Construction Codes & Licensing Division – Building Plan Review Section

PLAN REVIEW POLICY

PR-07

Elevator Machine Room Opening Protective

6/07

Based on the 2007 Minnesota State Building Code

Background:

ASME A17.1-1996 Section 101.1a(1) states that the elevator machine room “shall be enclosed throughout their height with fire-resistive enclosures as required by the building code.” The intent of the provision is to recognize that because there are practical difficulties in providing a fire-resistive separation between the hoistway and machine room, the machine room is treated as an extension of the hoistway (shaft). Normally this would require that duct and air transfer openings from the machine room to the hoistway be protected by combination smoke/fire dampers in accordance with IBC Sec. 715.5.3.1. However, because there are cases where the machine room is detached from the hoistway, this requirement becomes overly restrictive and costly. Therefore, the following policy was developed:

Policy:

In accordance with M.R. 1300.0110 subp. 12,

A fire damper alone is permitted to protect duct and air transfer openings in elevator machine rooms provided:

- (1) The elevator machine room does not have a wall in common with the elevator shaft,
- (2) The elevator machine room does not have duct or air transfer openings directly communicating with the elevator hoistway, &
- (3) All other openings and penetrations between the elevator machine room and the elevator shaft are effectively sealed.

Note: To be used in accordance with the attached, “Plan Review Policies”