

OFFICE MEMORANDUM



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DATE: January 2009

TO: All elevator related interests

FROM: Bill Reinke

PHONE: 651-284 5873

SUBJECT: Fire Service Alterations

The adoption of ASME A17.3-2002 as part of the Minnesota Elevators and Related Devices Code (Elevator Code) has resulted in all elevators being required to have firefighters service complying with the requirement in the 1987 or later version of the ASME standard. The Elevator Code was amended to allow compliance with this requirement to be delayed until January 29, 2012 as well as exempting the installation of Phase II fire fighters service on elevators that meet the exception to the rule. The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify what minimum changes must be made to existing elevators to comply with the current Elevator Code. The following is the portion of the Elevator Code that applies to the fire fighters service:

MSBC Rule 1307.0047 Subpart 11

All work required for compliance with ASME A17.3-2002 3.11.3 must be completed within 60 months of January 29, 2007. Failure to complete the work within the required time period will result in the elevator being removed from service until such work has been completed.

Exception: Existing elevators with phase one emergency recall installed without phase two firefighters service on the original installation may remain in operation without the addition of phase two fire service where there is travel from the designated level of less than 35 feet. For such elevators with a travel of more than 25 feet from the designated level, to be exempt from the requirement for phase two fire service, recall of the elevator shall be from the smoke detector at each elevator landing, the elevator equipment room, and the elevator key switch at the designated landing.

Code Edition Clarification

- The following guidelines may be used in determining what method will be used for updating or installing fire service to comply with the requirements of MSBC Rule 1307.0047 subpart 11.

Controllers without fire service

- If an elevator affected by this rule does not have fire service, fire service shall be installed in accordance with the ASME A17.1 2004 Rule 8.7.2.28 within the timelines stated above.

Controllers with fire service not meeting the minimum of ASME A17.3-2002 rule 3.11.3.

- Elevators that are designed to accommodate ASME A17.1-1987 fire service but are set by software or controller configuration as specified by the manufacturer to accommodate previous editions, changes may be made to meet the ASME 1987 rules or newer for fire service as specified by the manufacturer of the equipment.
- Controllers that were manufactured and installed with an earlier version of fire service, but the manufacturer has engineered drawings that allow the controller to be updated to the ASME 1987 or newer version of fire service may be updated in accordance with the manufacturer's engineered drawings.
- Controllers that were manufactured and installed with an earlier version of fire service and can incorporate the use of an engineered overlay controller specifically engineered for the intended controller may have the overlay installed to result in fire service complying with ASME 1987 requirements or newer. Existing overlay controllers that were engineered by the manufacturer, or by the overlay controller manufacturers design engineers, may be upgraded to the 1987 code as long as the engineering and circuitry design is provided for the installation.
- In all three cases listed above, changes to key switches, indicator lights and push-buttons (Call Cancel, Door Close) will be allowed as required for the overall system to comply with the ASME 1987 or newer version of the fire service code being applied.
- Where car stations were previously upgraded and the owner included provisions to accommodate the installation of fire service, the existing car station may be reused in installations that would require compliance with the ASME A17.1-2004 code or by option of the owner preferring to meet the 2004 code on existing upgrades, as long as equivalencies are provided for as stated in the Minnesota State Building Code rule 1300.0110 subpart 13.

Regardless of the method used, when these changes to controllers include wiring changes, submittal of permits with the required plans and specifications, including any engineered drawings for the installation, are required.

The methods listed for upgrading fire service on existing elevators to the 1987 code or newer will not be considered an alteration that would otherwise trigger other alterations unless at the time of installation other items are included in the alteration such as a change in motion or change in operation, etc.