INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

International Code Council
Los Angeles District Office
5360 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601
tel: 888.icc.safe (422 7233)
fax: 562.699.4522
www.iccsafe.org

December 14, 2011

Brian Black
NEII® Code & Safety Consultant
NEII ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS
1677 County Route 64
Salem, New York 12865-0838

Subject: 3007.7.3 and 3008.7.3 Lobby Doorways
International Building Code, 2012 Edition

Dear Mr. Black

In response to your request for a code opinion dated October 20, 2011 your questions and my responses are as follows:

Q: Machine Room Less (MRL) elevators permitted by ASME A17.1/CSA B44 typically have control rooms or control spaces that are accessed by a door immediately adjacent to a hoistway opening in an elevator lobby.

Are these doors considered to be lobby doorways for Fire Service Access Elevators (3007.7.3) or Occupant Evacuation Elevators (3008.7.3) and thus subject to the smoke and draft door assembly requirement of Section 716.5.3.1?

A: No. However continuity of the smoke barrier required by Section 3007.7.2 and Section 709.4 must be addressed.

The requirements are intended to maintain the integrity of the lobby enclosure smoke barrier and the lobby's separation from the remaining floor area on a building floor (see 3007.7.2 and 3008.7.2). This ensures that smoke from another area on the floor will not reach the lobby smoke detectors and place the elevator(s) into Phase I, thus rendering them unusable for Fire Service Access or Occupant Evacuation.

Smoke and draft control is unnecessary on elevator control room or space doors because any smoke emanating from those spaces has already activated the smoke detector in the control room/space and placed the elevator(s) in Phase I operation. It is thus unnecessary to protect the lobby smoke detector from smoke originating in the control room/space (or the hoistway to which the room/space is connected).

This opinion is based on the information which you have provided. We have made no independent effort to verify the accuracy of this information nor have we conducted a review beyond the scope of your question. As these opinions are only advisory, the final decision is the responsibility of the designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of the code.

Sincerely,

Beth Tubbs

Z:\Code Interps\Letters\IBC 12\Chapter 30\3007.7.3 & 3008.7.3.doc