



The Insider

National Elevator Industry, Inc.

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The Latest Safety Codes: What Adoption Means to You

Regular readers of *The Insider* know *NEII* is a driving force behind the development of codes, standards, laws, regulations and industry practices that reinforce safety and permit the introduction of safe, innovative technology. As an organization, we take great pride in the leadership and commitment we've shown to ensure the most advanced safety processes and procedures.

"That's great," you say. "But what does it mean to me?" Let's let Jonathan Brooks, former chief inspector for the State of North Carolina, explain.

"There are some pressures from building owners, consultants and the industry as a whole [to adopt the latest safety codes], because the industry is moving forward, and, unfortunately, sometimes bureaucracy gets in the way. If the state isn't allowed to adopt the latest code, they're trying to install a [brand new] Cadillac and I'm trying to inspect it by Model-T standards. It becomes a real issue."



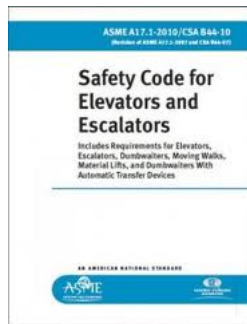
That Cadillac Jonathan refers to could be the latest destination dispatch elevator system that will allow people to flow through your building more easily; or, a machine-roomless elevator that will create more leasable space in your new project. It could even be a new regenerative drive that will make your elevators more efficient and return energy back into the building power grid. Elevator and escalator manufacturers constantly undertake painstaking efforts to design, test and produce the safest, most efficient equipment on the market. However, as Jonathan alluded to, in jurisdictions currently using outdated versions of the code, the latest technologies might not be available. This leaves you stuck with the Model-T while your neighbor cruises in his Cadillac.

Advances in technology continue to lead to remarkable feats of architecture and engineering. New technologies yield buildings that are taller, more efficient, more resistant to natural forces, and offer better indoor air quality. Progress within the building transportation industry is no exception. However, while these designs are often available, building developers in North America are limited in their ability to deploy them. Prescriptive design limitations imposed by older versions of the Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, ASME A17.1/CSA B44 get in the way.

The Performance-Based Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7 (PBC) provides jurisdictions with the necessary tools to assure the safety of new technology, subjecting it to the rigorous oversight of a third-party certification organization. The PBC also facilitates innovations in safety, accessibility and green technology that can benefit both building occupants and the community at large. The result for jurisdictions is the utmost

in safety and energy efficiency through implementation of the most advanced technologies.

It should be noted that the 2007 and 2010 editions of ASME A17.1/CSA B44 incorporate adoption of the PBC for elevators and escalators. The latest edition of this code will be published in late 2013 and will also incorporate the PBC.



So let's go back to the beginning. What can you do to help? Quite simply, *NEII* strongly encourages the adoption of the latest editions of the codes for elevators and escalators (i.e., ASME A17.1/CSA B44 and ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7) in all jurisdictions. This will help ensure the upmost in safety for the riding public and elevator personnel. *NEII* is committed to public and building transportation personnel safety and is ready to support jurisdictions in understanding the latest version of the code and assist in its adoption.

Our objective (or goal) is to turn everyone who could benefit from the latest building transportation codes into advocates for their adoption. Equipment manufacturers, building owners, facility managers, elevator inspectors, architects, regulators, legislators and members of the community alike – we can all play a part in keeping up with the latest elevator technology while maintaining or exceeding the safety and performance requirements under the current code.

If you have questions about issues under discussion in your state, don't hesitate to contact the *NEII* Government Affairs Consultant, Amy Blankenbiller, at ajblankenbiller@neii.org or 785-286-7599.

Have a comment or question for the experts? Want to submit a topic for a future issue of the newsletter? Send us your thoughts at theinsider@NEII.org to keep the conversation going!



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