



National Elevator Industry, Inc.

1677 County Route 64 • P.O. Box 838 • Salem, New York 12865-0838 • 518.854.3100 Fax: 518-854-3257

WWW.NEII.ORG • E-Mail: info@neii.org

NEII® POSITION ON ADOPTION OF ASME A17.1-2010/CSA B44-10

The most effective way of ensuring the safety of the riding public as well as elevator personnel is by the adoption of the latest version of the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators. This state-of-the-art code is widely used throughout North America and is updated regularly. The code represents the optimum in safety as it is developed and refined by hundreds of experienced experts representing all aspects of the elevator industry. Such expertise is drawn from enforcing authorities, mechanical and electrical engineering and design experts, inspectors, consultants, labor authorities, building and facility owners, and installation and maintenance specialists.

The code development process consists of a thorough consensus-building protocol which invites examination of proposed code language and the opportunity to comment on and suggest modifications to such language. The process also includes the opportunity for a thorough public review of any proposed language. In view of the thoroughness of the process, all issues are examined in-depth, and pitfalls and shortcomings are fully addressed before publication of the code.

Particular attention is given to requirements for acceptance and periodic inspection as well as ongoing maintenance. Such requirements are regularly updated to ensure the highest levels of safety.

Adoption of the most recent version of the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 code without modification in all jurisdictions ensures a uniform high level of safety throughout North America.

ASME A17.1-2010/CSA B44-10 is the latest version of the code, published December 30, 2010 with an effective date of June 30, 2011. Some of the important enhancements in this edition of the code are as follows:

- Requirements for state of the art suspension systems, including comprehensive requirements for steel wire ropes, coated steel belts and aramid fiber ropes; this includes comprehensive requirements for monitoring and detection of failure modes for all suspension means that are more robust than the provisions in previous codes. Specific requirements include traction loss detection and protection; broken suspension member detection and protection; residual suspension member strength detection and protection; engineering tests for robustness of suspension means. Updating of Maintenance Control Program for comprehensive suspension means.
- References ASME A17.6, a unique standard for suspension means and governor ropes. Specific items include mechanical properties and manufacturing and quality control

requirements for various suspension systems; comprehensive replacement criteria for all suspension systems; requirements for governor ropes.

- Allowances for variable speed escalators and moving walks that increase energy efficiency for building owners and contribute to a greener environment for all.
- Improved elevator phone line monitoring requirements.
- Improved safety for power operated vertical sliding doors and gates, including requirements to detect objects of various sizes and shapes to cause the doors to reverse direction. Such requirements did not exist in the 2007 code.
- Location of firefighter service panel standardized, improving access to emergency personnel; other improvements to firefighter operation that increase safety for first responders.
- Seismic requirements for roped hydraulic elevators added.

NEII® is committed to public and elevator personnel safety and is ready to support the authorities having jurisdiction in understanding the latest version of the code and assisting in the process of adoption. To this end *NEII*® provides information and training on the code and related issues, using webinars and podcasts in addition to meetings with interested parties.

Approved: 24-Mar-2011

NEII® Central Code Committee