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Jurisdictional Authority under the ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7 Performance-based safety code for elevators and escalators

Concerns have been expressed that an authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) that adopts the *ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7 Performance-based safety code for elevators and escalators* (PBC) could lose its authority to regulate elevator equipment installed under the requirements of the PBC.

It is *NEII*®'s understanding that AHJs retain the powers of enforcement vested in them by the state, provincial or local legislation to which they are answerable.

Adoption of the PBC in no way reduces the power or effectiveness of the AHJs. It provides an objective and structured method for establishing design and product safety that is equivalent or superior to that required by the ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7 Code. This structured method provides a consistent means of demonstrating safety of designs and products and will be helpful to the AHJs.

The PBC requires that the applicant produce a Code Compliance Document (CCD) which is examined by an Accredited Elevator/Escalator Certification Organization (AECO) or directly by the AHJ. AECOs are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), or both, to perform this analysis. The AECO does not usurp the authority of the AHJ. However, the certification granted by the AECO provides an impartial verification by an independent accredited organization that the applicable requirements of the PBC have been met. This is intended to assist the AHJ with an assurance of compliance with the PBC.

It is also important to note that the AHJ retains the responsibility for acceptance and periodic inspections and tests to confirm compliance with the requirements in ASME A17.1/CSA B44 and the CCD required by ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7.

In short, the *ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7 Performance-based safety code for elevators and escalators* (PBC) is an additional resource and tool for authorities having jurisdiction – not a replacement of AHJs – that ensures the safety of vertical transportation equipment in their states, provinces and localities.

APPROVED:

NEII® Central Code Committee: 8-Sep-09

NEII® Government Affairs Committee: 8-Sep-09

NEII® Board of Directors: 23-Sep-09

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