

Technical Advisory

FAQs concerning Florida's Elevator Industry

Issue 2007-01

BUREAU OF ELEVATOR SAFETY

October 25, 2007

This advisory is provided in response to inquiries, and is not intended as legal advice. While care has been taken to ensure its accuracy, in the event of any conflict the actual statute, code or administrative rule will prevail.

Timely Callback Inspections

The bureau has received callback inspections that exceed the 30-day timeframe established in statute. A person who submits a callback inspection later than 30 days has failed to comply with the state's reporting requirements.

Section 399.061, Florida Statutes (FS), states that when the division determines that an elevator is in violation of state law or the Florida Building Code, the division may issue an order to the elevator owner requiring correction of the violation and reinspection of the elevator evidencing the correction. Furthermore, if an elevator owner fails to comply with an order to correct within 30 days after its issuance, the owner is subject to administrative penalties including fines and suspension or revocation of their elevator license.

Summary: The elevator owner is responsible for the safe operation, proper maintenance, and inspection and correction of code deficiencies of the elevator after a certificate of operation has been issued, pursuant to s.399.02(5)(b), FS.

Full-Load Testing After Jack Replacement

Another recent inquiry raised questions regarding the need to perform a full-load test after a single bottom jack had been replaced or a safety bulkhead installed. Section 8.10.3.2.2(n), A.S.M.E A17.1 2004 Edition, states: Where an alteration is made to the plunger or cylinder (8.7.3.23), tests shall be performed as specified in 8.10.3.2.2(m), (n), (o), (r), and (s), 8.10.3.2.3(d) and (cc); and 8.10.3.2.5(b) and (c). Specifically, 8.10.3.2.3(cc) states in s. Car Speed [3.28.1(k)]: The speed of the car shall be verified with rated load and with no load, in both directions. (Item 3.30)

Summary: The car must be tested with the full rated load. The addition of a safety bulkhead or replacement of a single-walled cylinder are both considered alterations to the elevator and must be tested prior to the elevator being turned over for public use.

Temporary Operation Permits

The bureau continues to receive inquiries about expired temporary operation permits. The Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators ANSI/ASME A17.1 Section 5.10, allows elevators temporarily used for construction or demolition to provide transportation for construction personnel, tools, and materials only. Elevators used for construction shall not be accessible to the general public unless they comply with Part 2 or Part 3.

The bureau recognizes the need for Temporary Operation Permits and section 399.03(10)(a), FS, states:

The temporary use of an elevator during installation or alteration is authorized for a period of 30 days after the completion of a satisfactory temporary operation inspection. An additional 30-day period of temporary use is authorized from the date of completion of each additional satisfactory temporary operation inspection.

A satisfactory temporary operation inspection must satisfy the following criteria: the elevator is tested under contract load; the hoistway is fully enclosed; the hoistway doors and interlocks are installed; the car is completely enclosed, including door or gate and top; all electrical safety devices are installed and properly functioning; and terminal stopping equipment is in place for a safe runby and proper clearance. Section 399.03(10)(b), FS, further states that temporary use is authorized only when a satisfactory temporary operation inspection report, completed within the last 30 days, by a certified elevator inspector, and a notice prescribed by the department, bearing a statement that the elevator has not been finally approved by a certified elevator inspector, are conspicuously posted in the elevator.

Summary: A temporary permit is for construction use only. The use of an elevator by the public before a satisfactory initial inspection is complete will result in ordering its discontinued use and issuance of an administrative complaint with fines up to \$1,000 per day.