



ELEVATING DEVICE SAFETY BULLETIN

February 12, 2009

SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS FOR EXISTING ELEVATORS

Notice to Owners

This Bulletin is being issued by Public Works and Services to encourage and assist owners in appraising the safety of their existing elevators.

Introduction

Elevator design codes change over time based on technical innovation and information gathered from field experience. These code changes and possible changes to the use of an elevator make it important that the owner evaluate whether the design of their elevator appropriately matches the operational conditions in which it is used.

Owners should complete a periodic evaluation and take remedial action to mitigate possible safety concerns that are evident because of these changes.

Evaluating Existing Elevators

The need, if any, for enhancing the safety of any elevator will vary by location, use, age, equipment type, manufacturer, building type/use and quality of elevator maintenance. While newer code requirements will help reduce the number of incidents, the new provisions may not anticipate every circumstance. Owners of elevators should contact their elevator maintenance company, a professional engineer or an elevator consultant to establish what safety enhancements could be considered for their elevators.

The following is partial list of areas of improvement that owners could consider when conducting a safety evaluation of their elevators.

Elevator Car:

- Ensure that each elevator has an operating communication device (telephones, intercoms) that can reach 24 hour assistance.
- Make the elevator car emergency stop buttons key-operated or install them behind a locked cover.
- Install an emergency light and alarm bell with emergency power backup.
- Install door restrictors to prevent people from opening the car door from inside when the car is stalled or long apron guards to close off the opening to the hoistway.

Hoistway Doors:

- Strengthen the door's resistance to forced opening from the inside by installing door retainers.



Hydraulic Cylinders

- Replacement of single bottomed hydraulic cylinders.
- Installation of a cylinder gripper.
- Remote “Electronic Monitoring” of hydraulic oil levels.

Please read all the [Elevator Safety Bulletins](#) for more information on elevator safety.

If you have any questions about this Elevator Safety Bulletin, contact the Chief Elevator Inspector at (867) 767-9043 ext. 32034