

# Questions to Bureau of Elevator Safety – June 2004

## for the July, 2004 Elevator Association of Florida meeting.

1. Regarding M.R.L. (machine-room-less) type commercial elevators in the State of Florida;

Are they legal?

These devices currently do not fully comply with ASME A17.1

Certain aspects of machine room-less elevators do not meet code or administrative rule requirements.

For example ASME A17.1, 101.6 – no machines in the hoistway, and the Florida Building Code 3003.1.8 exception 2.1 – Governors in hoistway

2. Do they require a variance per elevator installation, per project?

Yes, a variance to any rules not met is required for each unit, but you may request a variance for several identical units that are located at the same location.

3. Do local Fire Departments have the authority to inspect and order changes with regard to elevators, elevator machine rooms, and access to both? If yes, by what authority?

Yes, as long as it does not affect the actual operation of the elevator or if there are rule requirements adopted by the Authority having jurisdiction that need to be met.

For example, an elevator machine room door swinging into an exit corridor may violate the Life Safety Code and may have to be relocated or made to swing in.

However, Enforcement would be limited to the extent of 69A-47, Uniform Fire Safety Standards for Elevators (enclosures, detectors and fire sprinklers).

4. We would like to know if the local fire department, having jurisdiction, can over-ride the requirement for initiating devices in open-air lobbies. This question was previously asked as below:

ASME A17.1 Rule 211.3b was revised with the 1997 edition, changing the requirement for smoke detectors for recall to “automatic fire initiating devices”

and removed the words “except at unenclosed landings”. This rule requires such devices to be installed in elevator spaces and at each elevator floor “**in compliance with NFPA-72” (National Fire Alarm Code)**. An exception in NFPA-72 allows the use of heat detectors for recall in unenclosed lobbies where smoke detectors are not feasible.

As the local Fire Marshal is the enforcing authority for NFPA-72, if they grant a variance or exception in writing from NFPA-72 removing the requirement for automatic fire initiating devices for elevator recall in open air (unenclosed) lobbies, will the Bureau of Elevator Safety accept the exception and allow these devices to be eliminated?

No, the language of the Code requires something there and a fire official on its own would not be able to simply waive it. A code change is necessary to eliminate these outside detectors.

5. There is a flexible, blue plastic conduit known in the industry as “Smurf” tubing used by electricians in many applications. Is this acceptable for electrical wiring in elevator hoistway and/or machine room?

The NFPA 70.620-21 does not currently permit the use of such conduit (National Electrical Code).

6. The annual periodic tests include testing, and witnessing the testing of the smoke sensors. Is this required in Florida. If not, please quote a rule or law.

The requirements are located in ASME A17.1.1002.2f and 1005.2c(5) and 61C-5.013(1)(b) (Maintenance Contract)

7. Generator tests also are part of the witnessed periodic inspections. Are they to be tested in Florida? If not, please quote the rule or law.

The requirements are located in ASME A17.1, 1002.2c and 1005.2c(6) and the Florida Administrative code 61c-5.013(1)(b).