

STANDATA variance 19-BCV-003(REV1) / 19-EDB-001

Building/Elevating Devices

Elevator and passenger-elevating devices

Date Issued: November 2022

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Purpose

This Standata focuses on the use of a passenger elevator instead of a platform lift or stair lift to meet barrier-free requirements, wherein it would also have to conform to CSA-B355, "Platform lifts and stair lifts for barrier-free access," to meet that specific intended use.

Discussion

Elevators are designed and constructed to ASME A17.1/CSA B44, "Safety code for elevators and escalators," as referenced in the Elevating Devices Codes Regulation made pursuant to the *Safety Codes Act*. Elevators are not constructed to the specifications detailed in CAN/CSA-B355. In some instances where elevators were installed to serve as lifts, safety codes officers have questioned why the elevator did not meet the size requirements to accommodate a stretcher, as instructed in the National Building Code - 2019 Alberta Edition (NBC(AE)). Not all elevator car sizes listed in Table E-1 "Minimum Dimensions of Elevator Cars" in Appendix E of ASME A17.1/CSA B44 have the space requirements to accommodate a stretcher.

Clause 4.2.1 of CSA-B355, requires an enclosed lift to be restricted to a maximum vertical travel of 7 000 mm.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the National Building Code-2019 Alberta Edition

Issued by the Provincial Building Administrator and the Provincial Administrator Elevating Devices

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Code References

Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1) and Article 3.8.3.7. states:

3.5.4.1. Elevator Car Dimensions

1) If one or more elevators are provided in a *building*, all *storeys* shall be served by at least one elevator which has inside dimensions that will accommodate and provide adequate access for a patient stretcher 2 010 mm long and 610 mm wide in the prone position. (See Note A-3.5.4.1.(1))

3.8.3.7. Passenger-Elevating Devices

1) Where passenger elevators are used in a *barrier-free* path of travel, features described in Appendix E of ASME A17.1/CSA B44, "Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators" shall be included in their design and construction.

2) A platform-equipped passenger-elevating device used in a *barrier-free* path of travel shall conform to the Elevating Devices Codes Regulation made pursuant to the Safety Codes Act.

Note: the above reference to a platform-equipped elevating-device is a reference to a type of "lift" under CSA-B355, "Platform lifts and stair lifts for barrier-free access".

CSA B355 Platform lifts and stair lifts for barrier-free access, states:

3 Definitions

Lift — a generic term covering all classes of special lifts for persons with physical disabilities, as listed in Clause 1.2.

4.2.1 Travel

The travel of a vertical platform lift shall not exceed the following:

- (a) 2500 mm for unenclosed type; or
- (b) 7000 mm for enclosed type.

Application

This variance only applies to buildings where an elevator is installed instead of a lift, in situations where a lift would comply with the accessibility requirements of the NBC(AE).

Variance

This variance provides approximately equivalent or greater safety performance with respect to persons and property as that provided for by the *Safety Codes Act* and the NBC(AE).

1. Where a passenger elevator is used instead of a lift conforming to CSA-B355 "Platform lifts and stair lifts for barrier-free access", the elevator car dimensions are not required to conform to Sentence 3.5.4.1.(1) of the NBC(AE) to have elevator dimensions accommodate a stretcher, provided:
 - a) the elevator is restricted to a vertical travel of 7 000 mm or less, and
 - b) the elevator car dimensions are not less than the minimum as set out in Table 1 of the CSA-B355 standard.
2. Permit applicants using this Variance must provide a copy of this documentation to the Authorities Having Jurisdiction.
 - [Building Permit- Where-to-get-a-permit](#)

[Building codes and standards](#)

[Elevator codes and standards](#)

- [Elevating Devices Permit- Alberta Elevating Devices and Amusement Rides Safety Association \(AEDARSA\).](#)

3. The NBC(AE) requires new automatic elevators to contain elements for Firefighters' Emergency Operation (FEO), except where the vertical travel is 7 000 mm or less. FEO elements are not required for platform lifts or stair lifts required for barrier-free access that have a vertical travel of 7 000 mm or less; therefore, an elevator installed in lieu of a platform lift or stair lift for barrier-free access would not require FEO elements.

Note:

1. Also issued as an elevating devices bulletin to provide awareness to the elevator industry of the conditions applicable to the use of this variance.
2. If you are installing an elevating device instead of a platform lift or a stair lift for barrier-free access, refer to [STANDATA ED-2009-005-R1](#) Elevating Devices Codes Regulation (New Installations).

This Variance is applicable throughout the Province of Alberta.