

STANDATA interpretation 19-EDI-010

Elevating Devices

Escalator inspection switches

Date Issued: November 2022

Page 1 of 2

Purpose

To ensure all escalators are equipped with inspection switches as prescribed in 6.1.6.2.2 in the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 safety code for elevators and escalators.

Discussion

This retroactive requirement has been required in Alberta since the early 1990's with the primary goal of increasing the safety of those individuals who are working on and inspecting escalators.

Code References

ASME A17.1/CSA B44 6.1.6.2.2

A17.1/CSA B44 6.1.6.2.2

Inspection Control. Each escalator shall be equipped with inspection controls not accessible to the general public during normal operation to provide constant-pressure operation during maintenance, repair, or inspection by means of a manually operated control device.

(a) General Requirements

(1) Switches for transferring the control of the escalator to inspection operation shall be provided or a switch shall be provided at each landing in a portable control station; the switch(es) shall function as follows:

(-a) be through a contact that shall be positively opened mechanically and whose opening shall not depend solely on springs

(-b) be manually operated

(-c) be labeled "INSPECTION" (-d) have two positions, labeled "INSPECTION" or "INSP" and "NORMAL" or "NORM"

(-e) when in the "INSPECTION" position, it shall cause the movement of the escalator to be solely under the control of constant-pressure operating devices at that landing or in that portable control station

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to ASME A17.1-2019/CSA B44:19

Issued by the Provincial Elevating Devices Administrator

[Original signed]

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(-f) be arranged so that if more than one inspection transfer switch is in the "INSPECTION" position, then all constant-pressure operating devices at all locations shall be inoperative

(-g) be protected against accidental contact

(2) Constant-pressure operating devices shall

(-a) allow movement of the escalator only by constant application of manual pressure

(-b) be distinctly recognizable from indications on the device as to the direction of travel controlled

(-c) be protected against accidental contact

(-d) be located so that the escalator steps are within sight

(3) A stop switch conforming to 6.1.6.3.15 shall be provided adjacent to the constant-pressure operating devices.

(4) When portable control stations are used, the cord length shall not exceed 3 000 mm (120 in.).

(b) *Plug-in Portable Control Station.* A plug-in portable control station shall be permitted, provided that

(1) either a transfer switch conforming to (a)(1) is complied with, or, when plugged in, the escalator shall automatically transfer to inspection operation

(2) when the switch, if provided, is in the "INSPECTION" position, or when the control station is plugged in, it shall cause the movement of the escalator to be solely under the control of constant-pressure operating devices contained in the portable unit

(3) the plug-in portable control station is stored at the upper landing machinery space

Application

This interpretation applies to all escalators installed to the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 safety code for elevators and escalators.

Interpretation

Any existing escalator that is not equipped with an inspection switch must meet the requirements of 6.1.6.2.2.

This INTERPRETATION is applicable throughout the Province of Alberta.