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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Effective Date: January 1, 2003

Source Document: 19NYCRR 1221 - Building Code of New York State (BCNYS)

Topic: Platform Lifts

1. Can a platform lift penetrate a floor, without a shaft enclosure?

YES. *Building Code of New York State* (BCNYS) section 1109.7.1, Technical requirements, states that vertical platform lifts shall comply with ASME A18.1. ASME A18.1, *Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts*, section 1.1.1 states that:

The device shall not penetrate more than one floor.

Section 2.1, Runways, states:

Runway construction for lifts that penetrate a floor must comply with paragraph 2.1.1 and the building code.

Section 2.1.1, runway enclosure provided, requires that:

The runway shall be guarded by a solid enclosure extending from the lowest landing to a height of at least 42 inches above the uppermost landing. The enclosure shall withstand, without permanent deformation, a force of 125 lbf applied on any 4 inch by 4 inch area. The interior of the runway enclosure shall present a smooth surface.

BCNYS section 707.14, is entitled "Elevator and dumbwaiter shafts." This section is applicable to the items covered by ASME A17.1 "Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators" which "includes requirements for Elevators, Escalators, Dumbwaiters, Moving Walks, Material Lifts and Dumbwaiters with Automatic Transfer Devices." This section is not applicable to platform lifts.

BCNYS section 707.2, shaft enclosure required, exception 7 is applicable and is as follows:

7. In other than Groups I-2 and I-3, a shaft enclosure is not required for a floor opening that complies with (all of) the following:

7.1. Does not connect more than two stories.

7.2. Is not part of the required means of egress system except as permitted in section 1005.3.2.

7.3. Is not concealed within the building construction.

7.4. Is not open to a corridor in Group I and R occupancies.

7.5. Is not open to a corridor on nonsprinklered floors in any occupancy.

7.6. Is separated from floor openings serving other floors by construction conforming to required shaft enclosures.

2. What is the frequency of periodic testing for a platform lift?

ASME A18.1 section 10.2 enumerates all of the parts which need to be inspected and requires such inspections be made at intervals not longer than 6 months.

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