

December 18, 2008

To: One- and Two-Family Dwelling Contractors and Other Affected Parties

Re: New regulations for elevators and dumbwaiters serving individual residential dwelling units, effective January 1, 2009.

History

On May 25, 2006 Governor Doyle signed into law Wisconsin Act 456, mandating the licensing of elevator contractors and installers. Under the act, no person or entity may engage in the business of constructing, installing, altering or servicing conveyances (i.e. elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters.) unless licensed by the state Department of Commerce.

Act 456 also mandated that new elevators and dumbwaiters serving individual residential dwelling units require a permit to install and must pass inspection before being turned over to the owner for use.

Act 456 assigned the rule-making process to the Department of Commerce. In early 2008 the department of commerce convened the governor-appointed Conveyance Safety Code Council and began developing the mandated rules.

Conveyances Covered by These Requirements

Conveyances installed to serve individual residential dwelling units include:

- Private residence elevators
- Commercial-type passenger elevators
- Commercial-type freight elevators
- Limited use / limited application elevators
- Inclined elevators (usually installed outdoors on sloped sites)
- Powered dumbwaiters

Conveyances Not Covered by These Requirements

Platform lifts and stairway chairlifts serving individual residential dwelling units are not covered by these requirements.

Product Approval and Plan Review Prior to Installation

New elevators and dumbwaiters serving individual residential dwelling units will be required to be approved products, similar to conveyances serving commercial buildings. For details regarding product approval, please see the Elevator Program Web page within the Safety and Buildings Division web site: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-ElevatorSystemsProgram.html>. Scroll down within

the Elevator Program page to the article entitled "Conveyance Safety Program Product Approval Requirements."

Plans to install elevators and dumbwaiters serving individual residential dwelling units will be required to be submitted for review and approval similar to conveyances serving commercial buildings. Requirements for prior architect's approval of shop drawings and building code authority approval of building plans will not apply to elevators and dumbwaiters serving individual residential dwelling units.

Submittal must be made by the licensed elevator or dumbwaiter contractor using form SBD-22 (R11/08), also available on the Elevator Program Web page.

Initial Inspection Prior to Use

A conveyance covered by these requirements may not be operated until all required inspections are completed and the owner has received an inspection report from a qualified, licensed inspector stating the elevator has passed final inspection. A permit to operate will be issued by the department.

Annual Inspections

In addition to the required initial inspection(s), the conveyance will be subject to annual inspections. An inspector will be assigned to perform the annual inspection or the owner may contract with another qualified, licensed inspector. The inspector will schedule the inspection with the homeowner a short time before the expiration of the permit to operate. After completion of the annual inspection, a new permit to operate will be issued by the department.

Fees

Product approval: No charge at this time.

New installation or complete replacement of existing, see table below. Also see the Elevator Program Web page for the map of agent- and state-inspected counties.

NOTE: Total fees in Agent-inspected counties do not include fees for inspections. Agent will bill separately for inspections. Total fees in State-inspected counties include initial inspection fee. See Box 10, Items A4 and B4		Agent-inspected Counties			State-inspected Counties		
		Plan Review Fee	PTO Fee	Total Fee	Plan Review & Initial Insp. Fee	PTO Fee	Total Fee
Pass. or Freight Elevator	Traction or drive machine other than hydraulic	\$400	\$35	\$435	\$1200	\$35	\$1235
	Hydraulic driving machine	\$320	\$35	\$355	\$1040	\$35	\$1075
Residential Elevator, Residential Inclined Elevator, LULA Elevator or Dumbwaiter		\$320	\$35	\$355	\$960	\$35	\$995

Other inspection fees:

	Agent-inspected Counties	State-inspected Counties

		Re-inspect of initial install, if needed	Inspect or re-inspect of covered alteration repair or remodel	Annual inspect or re-inspect if needed	Re-inspect of initial install, if needed	Inspect or re-inspect of covered alteration repair or remodel	Annual inspect or re-inspect if needed
Pass. or Freight Elevator	Traction or drive machine other than hydraulic	*	*	*	\$800	\$400	\$320
	Hydraulic driving machine	*	*	*	\$720	\$360	\$240
Residential or LULA Elevator or Dumbwaiter		*	*	*	\$640	\$320	\$160

* Inspection and re-inspection fees in agent-inspected counties to be determined by the agent inspection company. Such fees are not to exceed those in state-inspected counties.

Fee for annual permit-to-operate is \$35.

Effective Date

These rules will apply to elevators and dumbwaiters with contract to install between the homeowner (or builder or developer, as applicable) and the elevator contractor signed on or after January 1, 2009.

Elevators or dumbwaiters with contract between the homeowner (or builder or developer) and the elevator contractor signed prior to January 1, 2009, will be exempt from these requirements for the life of the elevator or dumbwaiter unless the owner chooses to have the unit regulated.

When entering into a contract with an elevator company to install an elevator or dumbwaiter to serve an individual residential dwelling unit, the homeowner, builder or developer should verify the contractor has the required licenses, is proposing a product approved in Wisconsin, and is aware of the code-required plan submittal and inspections.

Please call or e-mail with any questions about these new regulations.

Sincerely,

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