



Information for Owners of Elevators and Other Conveyances Serving Commercial Buildings

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INTRODUCTION

This is a summary of owner's responsibilities regarding conveyances serving commercial buildings in the State of Wisconsin.

Since 1912, the State of Wisconsin, Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS or Department) and its predecessor agencies have regulated elevators and other conveyances serving commercial buildings in an effort to provide for the safety of passengers and users of buildings and sites.

Terminology to Assist in Using this Document

Commercial building: A public building or place of employment. Places of worship, fraternal organizations, wedding/event barns and the common areas of a multi-family residential building containing owner-occupied dwelling units (condominiums) are typically considered commercial buildings or commercial spaces for application of codes.

Conveyance: Elevator, escalator, moving walk, dumbwaiter, Type B material lift, vertical or inclined platform lift or stairway chair lift as defined in state statute 101.981(1)(c) and SPS 318.1004.

Elevator: Passenger elevator, freight elevator, limited use/limited application (LULA) elevator, inclined elevator (usually outdoors on a sloped site), power sidewalk elevator, stage or orchestra elevator, rooftop elevator or special purpose personnel elevator (SPPE) as defined in ASME A17.1 and SPS 318.

For the purposes of this article, the term “elevator” may also include a private residence or Part V elevator under these circumstances:

- installed in limited types of commercial buildings between September 1, 1988, and July 1, 2002.
- installed in a commercial building to only serve a single dwelling within the building and not accessible to the general public.

- c) installed in a commercial building for demonstration purposes only, or under other special circumstances, by petition for variance.

Inspection: Performed by a licensed elevator inspector of this Department, an agent municipality or a private inspection contractor. When a conveyance is first installed the acceptance inspection must be passed prior to turn-over and use of the conveyance and issuing of the first annual permit to operate (PTO). Thereafter, an annual inspection must be passed in an effort to ensure continued safety, code compliance and issuing of the annual PTO for the conveyance to remain in service. An inspection may also be required after certain alterations, repairs or replacements of critical components.

The term “inspection” is sometimes used by conveyance service contractors to describe a service they provide. For the purpose of the elevator code, inspections are performed only by a licensed elevator inspector, not by a conveyance service contractor.

Re-inspection: Performed by a licensed elevator inspector of this Department, an agent municipality or a private inspection contractor. May be deemed necessary by the inspector when the initial, annual or alteration, repair or replacement inspection finds violations.

Maintenance: Where performed on building components or elevator car interiors, may be performed by the owner or authorized personnel who are not required to be licensed. Where performed on other elevator components, maintenance may only be performed by properly licensed elevator or lift personnel, not by an owner or inspector.

Service: Performed only by a licensed elevator contractor and their licensed personnel, not an owner or inspector. Periodic service is not directly required by code. Service may not be performed by an inspector.

Tests: Performed only by a licensed elevator contractor and their licensed personnel, not an owner or inspector. Periodic tests are directly required by code for most conveyances.

Checks: Activity that may be performed by the owner or authorized personnel to verify operation of firefighters' emergency operation key switches and hydraulic elevator oil level.

Current Wisconsin Codes

These codes are commonly referred to regarding elevators and other conveyances.

Ch. SPS 302, [Fee Schedule](#)

Ch. SPS 305, [Licenses, Certifications and Registrations](#)

Ch. SPS 318, [Elevators, Escalators and Lift Devices](#)

Ch. SPS 361-366, [Commercial Building Code](#)

These codes may be accessed at no cost. The easiest way to access the codes is by performing a web search for the code number: SPS 302, SPS 305, SPS 318 or SPS 362.

Adoption of National Standards

Most codes administered by the Department adopt a national standard. At this time, SPS 318 adopts the following national standards for conveyances. See SPS 318.1005.

ASME A17.1 / CSA B44 (2016 edition) Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators

ASME A18.1 (2017 edition) Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts

ANSI E1.42 (2018 edition) Entertainment Technology – Design, Installation and Use of Orchestra Pit Lifts (stage and orchestra elevating platforms).

Other codes important to conveyances adopted through state codes or as secondary references include the following:

ASME A17.6 (2010 edition) Standard for Elevator Suspension, Compensation and Governor Systems

ASME A17.7 / CSA B44.7 (2007 edition) Performance-Based Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators

NFPA 13 (2013 edition) Automatic Sprinkler Systems

NFPA 72 (2013 edition) National Fire Alarm Code

NFPA 70 (2017 edition) National Electrical Code

Effective Date of Conveyance Codes

In general, the conveyance codes to be applied for the life of the conveyance are the codes in effect when the original installation contract was signed between the owner and the conveyance contractor. For example, an elevator with the installation contract signed on February 28, 1985, will be inspected to the November 1984 state code and the 1981 edition of ASME A17.1 adopted by the state code at the time.

Components of a conveyance that have been replaced, repaired or altered after the initial installation may have contract dates that differ from the original installation contract date. For example, if the 1985 elevator had firefighters' emergency operation contracted to be installed in 2005, the firefighters emergency operation system would be inspected each year to the code requirements in effect in 2005. Parts of the elevator not altered in 2005 would continue to be inspected to the codes in effect on their 1985 initial installation contract date. This allows improvements to be made to a conveyance without requiring upgrading unrelated components at the same time. See **SPS 318.1004(9)**.

Current codes that are retroactive for existing conveyances are generally limited to maintenance, repair, replacements, alterations, tests and inspections in **ASME A17.1, Part 8** and **SPS 318.17086**.

NEW INSTALLATIONS AND ALTERATIONS, REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS TO COMPONENTS OF EXISTING CONVEYANCES

The installation of a new conveyance or certain changes to components of an existing conveyance must be performed by a licensed elevator contractor utilizing only properly licensed personnel. See the sections below regarding Licensing of Contractors and Personnel and Service Maintenance and Tests by Owner.

The licensed contractor must, by law, have approval granted *prior* to commencing the installation or any of the alterations, repairs or component replacements listed in the code. See **Wis. stat. 101.983(1)(a)**. See **SPS 318.1007** for alterations, repairs and component replacements to existing conveyances where prior approval is required.

The approval will be issued by this Department or the cities of Milwaukee or Madison. The approval may include corrections to the contractor's plans as well as instructions to other contractors to achieve timely compliance with safety codes and passing of final inspections. Approval from this Department will include information regarding the owner on record, site, conveyance, applicable fee and information to contact the plan reviewer and inspector.

One copy of the approval, one copy of the approved plans where applicable and one copy of the application to perform the work must be on site from the beginning of the elevator contractor's work until passing the final inspection of the conveyance. See **SPS 318.1008(4)**. Failure to comply with rules regarding prior approval may result in additional \$500.00 fee per occurrence.

A copy of the letter of conditional approval to begin the work will also be sent to the owner. If an owner is aware of work beginning but has not received their copy of the approval, it is in their best interest to contact their contractor and this Department or Milwaukee or Madison as applicable.

PERMIT TO OPERATE (PTO) REQUIRED

By state statute a conveyance serving a commercial building must have a valid permit-to-operate (PTO). See **Wis. Stat. 101.983(2)(a)** and **SPS 318.1011(1)**.

For a new installation, the fee for the first PTO is paid by the installing elevator contractor at the time of plan review. The conveyance must pass its acceptance inspection before the first PTO will be available to the owner for printing and posting and the conveyance may be operated. Allowing an owner to operate a conveyance prior to passing the acceptance inspection may result in a \$1000.00 fine issued to the contractor and/or the owner.

The PTO for most conveyances (elevators, escalators, platform lifts and dumbwaiters) is valid for one year. See **SPS 318.1011(4)(a)**. Only a stairway chairlift has a 3-year PTO cycle. See **SPS 318.1810(4)**. The owner is required to ensure that all required periodic tests and inspections are up to date to avoid expiration of the PTO. If violations are found, the inspector will cite them, including the code number and will note a date for compliance.

If no violations are noted or if all violations have been corrected, the owner may pay the \$50.00 renewal fee and access the PTO in the eSLA database for printing and posting. See esla.wi.gov. The PTO must be posted in the machine room or if there is no machine room, in or at the conveyance.

Failure to comply with inspection orders allowing expiration of the PTO may result in the conveyance being locked out of service. Where a conveyance is required to be in service for the building to remain occupied, failure to maintain the conveyance PTO may result in the building losing its certificate of occupancy. A conveyance may be without a PTO only if the conveyance is eligible to be placed out of service for non-use and that process has been completed (see Page 11).

PERIODIC TESTING REQUIRED PRIOR TO ANNUAL INSPECTION

The inspector performing the annual inspection must find copies of all applicable test records with passing results on site as part of their inspection. The number and type of periodic tests required may vary from one conveyance to another depending on the type of the equipment. For efficient inspections and issuance of the annual PTO, it is essential that periodic testing is up to date at the time of the annual inspection.

It is not possible to delay annual tests until the PTO is overdue then use those test results for both the overdue and the next annual inspection and PTO. Any set of annual test results may be valid for only one PTO. See **SPS 318.17086(14)**.

Elevators (Other Than Private Residence-Type)

For a full-size passenger or freight elevator suspended with cables, flat suspension belts or chains (commonly called "electric" elevators), up to 16 tests are required annually and up to 11 tests are required every 5-years. See **A17.1, 8.6.4.19 and 8.6.4.20**.

For a full-size passenger or freight elevator of the hydraulic type, up to 14 tests are required annually and up to 7 tests are required every 5-years. A hydraulic elevator with a jack or piping in the ground and not visible for inspection is also required to have an annual pressure test of the hydraulic system. See **A17.1, 8.6.5.14, 8.6.5.15 and SPS 318.17086(9)**.

Owner is Required to Possess Procedures and Devices Necessary for Testing

For many modern elevators, unique procedures and devices may be necessary to perform required periodic tests. For elevators with installation contract dates on or after September 1, 2014, the elevator owner must have any such procedures and devices on site for use by the elevator contractor. If the installing elevator contractor did not inform the owner of the requirement or the procedures or devices have been removed, the owner must obtain the procedures and devices from the original manufacturer or they may be available from an aftermarket supplier.

See **SPS 318.17086(2)(a)**.

Private Residence Elevators Installed to Serve Commercial Spaces Within or At Commercial Buildings

A private residence elevator (including an older "Part V" elevator) installed to serve a commercial space within or at a commercial building is subject to annual testing only if an inspection reveals the need for such a test. Such a private residence elevator having a safety device is subject to 5-year tests of the safety device (and governor where the safety device is governor-actuated). See **SPS 318.17086(10)(b)**. See this article on the Elevators and Conveyances web page regarding [Periodic Inspections and Tests of Residential Type Elevators Serving Commercial Buildings](#).

Escalators and Moving Walks

An escalator or moving walk is subject to up to 22 separate annual tests. All escalators, regardless of age, are subject to annual check of the step / skirt performance index. See **A17.1, 8.6.8.15**.

Dumbwaiters

A dumbwaiter is allowed to have the “annual” tests performed every 5 years instead. See **SPS 318.170811(8)**.

Type B Material Lifts

A Type B material lift is subject to annual testing of some components. Five-year testing is not required. See **A17.1, 8.6.10.1.1**.

Vertical and Inclined Platform Lifts and Stairway Chair Lifts

A platform lift or stairway chair lift is subject to an annual test only if an inspection reveals the need for such a test. A platform lift or stairway chair lift having a safety device that can be tested is subject to 5-year tests of the safety device (and governor where governor-actuated). See **SPS 318.1810(7)**.

SERVICE, MAINTENANCE, AND TESTS BY THE OWNER

NOTE: Working on or near conveyance equipment can be extremely dangerous! Knowledge of the equipment is necessary to avoid crushing, fall, electric shock, and other hazards!

In a Machine Room, Hoistway, or Pit

An owner or other non-licensed individual authorized by the owner may access elevator machine rooms and hoistways for the purpose of cleaning, changing lamps and servicing, repairing or testing *building* components only. Such personnel must be trained to do so safely. See this article on the Elevators and Conveyances web page regarding [Accessing Elevator Hoistways and Pits](#).

An owner or other authorized, non-licensed individual may *not* perform any function of service or testing to an elevator, escalator or lift except if properly trained, an owner or authorized individual may perform quarterly checks of firefighters' emergency operation on an elevator to meet SPS 318.1708(2)(k) or oil level for a hydraulic elevator to meet SPS 318.1708(2)(g). Unexplained loss of oil must be addressed immediately by licensed elevator personnel. See **A17.1, 8.6.5.7**.

Inside an Elevator Car

If properly trained, an owner or authorized individual may perform quarterly checks of elevator firefighters' emergency operation system components. Deficiencies in firefighters' emergency operation must be addressed immediately by licensed elevator personnel. See **SPS 318.17086(11)**.

An owner or authorized individual may install interior finishes inside an elevator car, provided the work:

- 1). is performed entirely inside the car.
- 2). is limited to finish surfaces of the walls, floor and ceiling. Materials exposed to the interior of an elevator must meet requirements for smoke development, flame spread rating and other requirements of **A17.1, 2.14.2**.
- 3). does not involve equipment necessary for the elevator to be operational such as the car operating panel, and
- 4). does not result in an increase or decrease of more than 5% in the sum of the elevator car dead load plus its rated load. See **SPS Table 318.1007-1, Item 11**.

An owner or authorized individual may change lamps within a conveyance for conveyance illumination. See **SPS 305.991(2)(b)2**.

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

The renewal of a permit to operate shall be contingent upon one or more inspections to determine compliance with code requirements.

Within an agent municipality (Milwaukee or Madison), the inspection will be performed by the agent municipality. See these links for more information about Milwaukee and Madison elevator safety programs:

https://city.milwaukee.gov/DNS/Inspections_Sections/Elevators
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/fire/permits-inspections/elevator-inspections>

Outside an agent municipality, the inspection may occur in one of two ways:

Outside an agent municipality, the inspection may occur in one of two ways:

1). An owner may contract directly with an independent licensed elevator inspecting company. The following companies are currently operating in Wisconsin.

ATIS Elevator Inspections, LLC
(314) 390-5810
E-mail: chartmann@atis.com Website: www.ATIS.com

Elevator Inspection Service Wisconsin LLC (EISW)
(630) 581-0114
E-mail: angela.kramski@elevator-inspection.com Website: www.elevator-inspection.com

HIS Elevator Inspection Services (HISEIS – Christopher Ladue)
(414) 373-1171
E-mail: hiseis@outlook.com

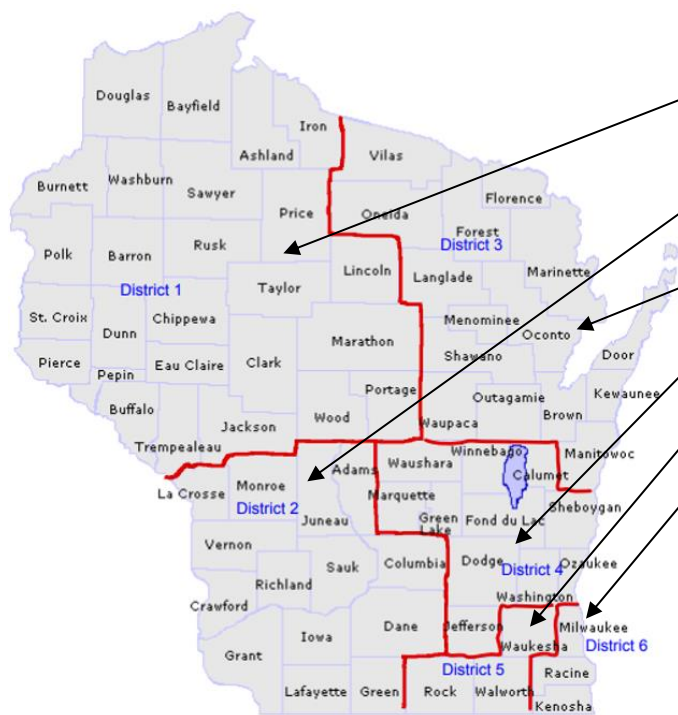
National Elevator Inspection Services, Inc. (NEIS – Bureau Veritas)
(800) 886-6347
E-mail: wineis.mail@bureauveritas.com Website: www.us.bureauveritas.com

Performance Elevator Consulting, LLC
(262) 853-1054, (262) 242-3077
E-mail: PaulR@PEC-WI.com Website: www.PEC-wi.com

Van Deusen & Associates (VDA)
(331) 888-3063, (360) 391-0481
E-mail: jschmidt@vdassoc.com Website: www.vdassoc.com

Wisconsin Elevator Inspection, Inc. (WEI)
(262) 567-4400
E-mail: i2Carla@att.net Website: www.wi-elev.com

2). If an owner chooses not to contract directly with one of the above independent licensed elevator inspecting companies, the inspection will automatically be scheduled by this Department to be performed by an inspecting company having a written contract with the Department or by a Department inspector. For such annual inspections where the owner does not have an inspection contract, the inspection will be performed by ATIS or NEIS by district according to this map. **See SPS 318.1011(5).**



ANNUAL INSPECTIONS IF NO CONTRACT

**District 1 –
National Elevator Inspection Services (NEIS)**

**District 2 (outside the City of Madison)
National Elevator Inspection Services (NEIS)**

District 3 – ATIS Elevator Inspections

District 4 – ATIS Elevator Inspections

District 5 – ATIS Elevator Inspections

**District 6 (outside the City of Milwaukee) –
ATIS Elevator Inspections**

ATIS – (262) 923-2233

NEIS – (262) 560-6220

Scheduling the Annual Inspection

This Department and the inspection companies maintain records to keep inspections and permits to operate up to date. The inspection company should schedule each annual inspection to take place between 120 days (4 months) and 30 days (one month) prior to the PTO expiration date.

The inspector is to schedule the inspection with the owner before arriving so the owner will ensure the required periodic tests have been completed and the conveyance will be available for inspection. Scheduling the inspection also gives the owner an opportunity to confirm the correct inspecting company is scheduled to inspect their conveyance.

If the annual inspection does not take place at least 30 days before the PTO will expire, the owner should contact the inspecting company directly to schedule the inspection as soon as possible.

The owner is responsible for ensuring the code compliance and safe operation of their conveyance. A conveyance that has not been placed out of service (see page 11) must pass all applicable periodic tests, pass the annual inspection* and have the PTO renewed, printed and posted to remain in use.

* a stairway chairlift has a 3-year inspection cycle

The Inspection

The inspector is expected to provide photo identification or a business card when arriving at the building. The inspector is also expected to verify the correct owner contact name, telephone number and email address on site to ensure future inspections are scheduled with the correct individual.

The owner is expected to provide the inspector access to the conveyance and any associated machine room, machinery space, control room or control space, on-site documentation addressed on Page 8 and the previous year PTO.

After the Inspection

The inspector is expected to provide the owner with either a hard copy of the inspection report before leaving the site or offer to email the owner the inspection report within 5 business days as required by **SPS 318.1011(8)(b) 3**. The inspection report will include code violations with the code number cited and may include due dates for corrections to be made or re-inspections to take place before the PTO may be issued.

LICENSING OF ELEVATOR CONTRACTORS AND PERSONNEL INSTALLING, SERVICING, MAINTAINING AND TESTING CONVEYANCES

For new installations and changes to existing conveyances listed in **SPS 318.1007, Tables 1 – 4** an application for plan review must be submitted by a licensed elevator contractor or by a properly- licensed individual employed directly by the owner to perform limited work only on the conveyances of that owner. An owner employing such an individual is not required to become a licensed elevator contractor. See **SPS 305.9905(1)(a) and (b)**.

Individuals having a license of a type in 1 through 5 below may erect, construct, alter, replace, repair, maintain, test, remove or dismantle any type of conveyance. See **SPS 305.991(1)(a)**:

1. licensed elevator mechanic.
2. licensed elevator mechanic–restricted.
3. registered elevator apprentice.
4. registered elevator apprentice–restricted.
5. registered elevator helper.
6. licensed lift mechanic.
7. registered lift apprentice.
8. registered lift helper.

Individuals having a license of a type in 6 through 8 may only erect, construct, alter, replace, maintain, repair, remove or dismantle vertical platform lifts, inclined platform lifts, stairway chair lifts, LULA elevators, residential elevators, residential inclined elevators, and dumbwaiters. They may *not* perform those tasks related to full-size commercial type elevators, escalators or moving walks. See **SPS 305.991(1)(c)**.

CONTRACTS FOR PERIODIC MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE

Although most elevators and other conveyances require periodic *testing* and an MCP is required to be provided to the owner by the installing or service contractor, codes do not require a conveyance to undergo periodic maintenance or service. A conveyance is required to be maintained and serviced as necessary for safe operation.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO BE ON-SITE

Maintenance Control Program

Effective Sept. 1, 2014, the owner of a new elevator, escalator, moving walk, dumbwaiter or Type B material lift must receive a maintenance control program (MCP) from the installing contractor.

Effective June 1, 2020, the owner of a new vertical or inclined platform lift or stairway chairlift must receive an MCP from the installing contractor.

For alterations to an existing conveyance, an MCP must be provided to the owner by the contractor for the altered components. The MCP must provide manufacturer's recommendations for examinations, tests, cleaning, lubrication, and adjustments of components based on equipment age, condition, wear, design, quality, environmental conditions. See **A17.1, 8.6.1.2.1** and a sample MCP in non-mandatory **Appendix Y** and **A18.1, Section 11**.

Maintenance Records

On-site maintenance records include records of alterations, repairs and replacements, records of oil usage, and records of tests of firefighters' emergency operation required. See **SPS 318.17086(11)** and **A17.1, 8.6.1.4.1**.

Maintenance records shall be retained for the most recent 5 years however an owner may choose to retain the records for a longer period of time. See **SPS 318.17086(11)(c)**. Maintenance records are to remain with the conveyance if ownership of the building or site changes. See this article on the Elevators and Conveyances web page regarding [Maintenance Records](#).

Written Procedures

Written procedures are required for cleaning of elevator car and hoistway transparent enclosures, emergency evacuation procedures for elevators, operating instructions for means to prevent elevator car movement specified in A17.1, 2.7.5.1.1 or 2.7.5.2.1, egress and reentry procedure using the car top exit or hoistway landing door specified in A17.1, 2.7.5.1.3 and 2.7.5.2.3, operating instructions for retractable platforms and startup procedures for escalators and moving walks. These written procedures will not be evaluated as part of inspections at this time. See **SPS 318.17086(2)(k)2**.

Additional On-Site Documentation

Additional on-site documentation includes wiring diagrams, check-out procedures for safety components, unique procedures for maintenance, adjustments, inspections, tests, replacement of components, and a record of trouble calls. See **A17.1, 8.6.1.2.2**.

Location of On-Site Documentation

For a conveyance serving a commercial building and having a machine room, control room, or control space accessed directly from a building floor or the roof (not accessed via an elevator car top), the MCP, maintenance records and other required on-site documentation shall be located in the machine room, control room or control space for the conveyance.

For a conveyance having an inspection and test panel without a machine room, control room or control space, the inside cover of the inspection and test panel shall provide instructions for locating the MCP, maintenance records and other required on-site documentation. Instructions shall be permanently legible with lettering not less than 1/8 inch in height.

The MCP, maintenance records, and other required on-site documentation are the property of the conveyance owner, not the conveyance installer or the contractor or individual providing service. The documentation may be removed only with the permission of the owner. These records may be subject to damage in use or may be misplaced so an owner may choose to retain an additional set of these documents elsewhere. See **SPS 318.17086(2)**.

Updating of On-Site Documentation

Where installation of or alteration to a conveyance requires updating of on-site documentation (including wiring diagrams), such updates in electronic form shall be transferred to the paper copy of the documents by the installing or service contractor within 3 months of the maintenance, repair, replacement, or alteration. See **SPS 318.17086(2)**.

USE OF FREIGHT ELEVATORS

By definition, a freight elevator is an elevator primarily used for carrying freight and on which only the operator and the person or persons necessary for unloading and loading the freight are permitted to ride.

Freight elevators typically are not designed to safely carry persons unfamiliar with potential hazards. The tops, side walls and doors or gates of freight elevators often have openings where persons may be injured. Freight elevators are more likely to stop out of level with a landing increasing the likelihood of tripping for persons entering or exiting. Vertically opening doors or gates may create tripping or head impact hazards. Typical freight elevators are designed for loading of about 50 lbs per square foot while passenger elevators are designed for loading of about 100 lbs per square foot therefore a freight elevator can carry about half the load as a comparable passenger elevator. Overloading is likely to result in the elevator falling or other unintended and unsafe operation.

Freight elevators are not permitted to be ridden by the general public except under the direct supervision of firefighters or other emergency personnel such as while on Phase II Firefighters Emergency Operation.

Freight elevators may be used by building employees other than the operator or freight handlers only with permission from this Department or the cities of Milwaukee or Madison as applicable. Such elevators must be shown to meet additional code requirements such as loading capacities necessary for carrying passengers.

An individual may contact this Department to determine whether a particular elevator is classified as a passenger elevator available for use by the general public or as a freight elevator.

CONVEYANCE ACCIDENT REPORTING

See **SPS 318.1013 Accident reporting** for the owner's responsibilities regarding reporting of accidents associated with conveyances. Violation of these requirements may result in a fine issued to the contractor and/or the owner. See **stat 101.988(3)**.

(1) (a) Any *bodily injury* requiring more than first-aid treatment, that occurs *in conjunction with* a conveyance, shall be reported by the owner or owner's agent to the Department or agent municipality within 2 business days of the injury, except as provided in par. (b).

(b) 1. Any *fatality* under par. (a) shall be reported to the Department or agent municipality within 24 hours of the fatality.

2. For the purposes of this section, the agent municipality is the entity that issued the permit to operate for the conveyance.

(c) At minimum, a report in an acceptable format shall be submitted to the Department or agent municipality.

Note: The Department may be contacted at telephone (608) 266-7548 during normal business hours. The State Division of Emergency Management can be contacted at (800) 943-0003 during non-business hours. A copy of the elevator/escalator accident report form SBD-10782 and the minimum information needed are available on the Industry Services' website at:

[Conveyance Accident Report Form](#)

(2) The owner of a conveyance that causes a bodily injury under sub. (1) may not remove or disturb the conveyance or any of its components or permit any such removal or disturbance prior to receiving authorization from the Department or agent municipality, except for the purpose of reducing further bodily harm or property damage, or as provided in sub. (4).

(3) The owner of a conveyance that causes a bodily injury under sub. (1) may not return or allow the return of the conveyance back into operation or service until receiving authorization from the Department or agent municipality that issued the permit to operate, except as provided in sub. (4).

(4) Where authorized by a licensed elevator inspector, the conveyance may be temporarily returned to service until an inspection by the Department or agent municipality verifies that continuation of service is acceptable.

PLACING A CONVEYANCE OUT OF SERVICE FOR HAZARDOUS CONDITION

See **SPS 318.1011(8)(c)2** for the requirement to place a conveyance out of service where a hazardous condition is present

Where an inspection report denotes conditions that pose an imminent threat to life and limb and require the conveyance to be taken out of service, both of the following shall be done immediately

- a. the owner or owner's representative shall take the conveyance out of service.
- b. the inspector shall notify the Department.

Please note: A conveyance known to be operating with a hazardous condition should be taken out of service by the owner, owner's representative or elevator personnel without waiting for an inspection and report to be completed.

PLACING A CONVEYANCE OUT OF SERVICE FOR NON-USE

An elevator or platform lift that is part of a required accessible route in an occupied building may be placed out of service only with the permission of the building code authority. See **SPS 318.170811(5)(a) 7** for regarding elevators and **SPS 318.1810(3)** note following (b) regarding platform lifts.

Where an elevator or lift is not required to remain in service by the building code, an owner may choose to have the conveyance placed out of service according to **SPS 318.170811(5)** or **SPS 318.1810(3)**. This typically occurs where a building or part of a building served by the conveyance will not be in use for an extended period.

Individuals placing a conveyance out of service for non-use must be properly licensed elevator or lift personnel. Prior approval is not required but an inspection is required.

NOTE: *Working near conveyance equipment can be extremely dangerous! Knowledge of the equipment is necessary to avoid crushing, fall, electric shock, and other hazards!*

REMOVAL OR DISMANTLING A CONVEYANCE

An existing conveyance may be removed or dismantled only by a licensed conveyance contractor utilizing only properly-licensed individuals, except where demolition of the conveyance will safely occur as part of demolition of that portion of the building. See **SPS 305.990(2)**.

NOTE: *Working near conveyance equipment can be extremely dangerous! Knowledge of the equipment is necessary to avoid crushing, fall, electric shock, and other hazards!*

IN-GROUND HYDRAULIC JACKS - LEAKING, REMOVAL, ABANDONEMENT

See the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website for information regarding loss of oil from a leaking elevator hydraulic jack: [DNR What To Do in Case of an Oil Spill](#)

An in-ground hydraulic elevator jack that will no longer be used may not be abandoned in place. This may occur when the elevator it serves is removed or is converted to a different type of system that will not utilize the jack. Removal of the jack means removal of not only the head and piston or plunger, but of the entire jack.

After removal of an elevator jack, the hole must be filled properly. Information about filling elevator jack holes including required reporting of the work to the DNR can be found at [DNR Well Filling and Sealing](#).

Rev. 5-9-2025: Add website links for Milwaukee and Madison elevator safety programs.

Subject of 3-12-2025 revision: Update list of private elevator inspection companies

Subject of 12-3-2024 revision: Addition of details regarding annual inspections, permits-to-operate and accident reporting

Subject of 4-16-2024 revision: Clarification to Placing a Conveyance out of Service

Subject of 4-3-2024 revision to 1-6-2023 revision: Correction to periodic inspection requirements for dumbwaiters to