

Elevator Certification Program Launched



To better meet the needs of manufacturers and code officials, UL has launched a certification program for elevator and escalator systems, subsystems and equipment.

Currently, elevator manufacturers who are developing innovative elevator and escalator designs must approach individual local code authorities and have them determine if the equipment and systems comply with nationally recognized standards and are installed in a safe, code-compliant manner.

The new certification program allows manufacturers to have elevator systems and equipment investigated by a single certifier using requirements in the ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7 Performance-based Safety Code for

Elevators and Escalators. The ANSI accredited program facilitates acceptance by code authorities, and allows them to focus on verifying the systems are installed in a safe, code compliant manner.

New product category

The Elevator and Escalator Systems, Subsystems, Components and Functions product category (AECO) has been established to cover these certifications. Information on this category can be found in UL's Online Certifications Directory at www.ul.com/database.

Code compliance tool

Elevator systems and equipment covered under this product category are investigated in accordance with ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7. Section 3001.2 of the International Building Code require elevators and conveying systems to be designed, constructed and installed in accordance with specifically referenced product standards, including this ASME A17.7 standard.

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UL's new elevator certification program (continued)

Installation considerations

Elevator and escalator systems are investigated as complete units. Subsystems, components and system functions may be investigated separately, and are specifically designated in the technical documentation provided with the system.

When an elevator system is designated as a "model elevator," it is deemed to be representative of series-produced elevators with the same design and configuration. Any allowable variations between a model and installed elevators are clearly specified in the technical documentation accompanying certificate of conformance. This includes minimum and maximum values, optional and mandatory features, and other details that make it easy for the code authority to determine if the elevator to be installed is covered by the UL certification.

Certificate of conformance

The certificate of conformance serves as evidence that a representative sample of the elevator or escalator system, subsystem or component and related functions has been investigated for conformance to ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7. It provides code authorities with basic information on the requirements for installation and maintenance of an elevator system, subsystem and related functions. Among other information it includes:

- Manufacturer name and address
- Scope of certification, including the relevant portions of ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7 to which each product or product type was certified
- Unique certificate number, effective date of the Certificate, and the term (time limit) or expiration date
- Critical information related to installation or maintenance and any conditions or limitations on the installation and use of the product(s)

The certificate does not cover the final installation of the entire elevator or escalator equipment in a building or structure.

UL certification Mark

In addition to a certificate of conformance, a UL Classification Mark appears on a subsystem or component or the smallest unit container in which a subsystem or component is packaged. The Classification Mark includes the UL symbol, product identity, certificate of conformance number, and the phrase "CLASSIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASME A17.7/CSA B44.7" or the equivalent. If a component or subsystem is certified for use with more than one certified system, the Classification Mark may contain more than one certificate number.

Current certifications

Otis Elevator Company of Farmington, CT obtained the first certification under this product category. It is anticipated that several more companies will obtain certifications for their products in the near future.

Additional Certifications

Numerous elevator and escalator products are also certified under the following product categories:

- Elevator Control Panels (FQPB)
- Elevator Control Panels for Use in Hazardous Locations (FSNA)
- Elevator Control Panels Relating to Hazardous Locations (intended for installation in unclassified locations) (FSSA)
- Elevator Controls and Accessories (FQMW)
- Elevator Door-locking Devices and Contacts (FQXZ)
- Elevator Door-locking Devices and Contacts for Use in Hazardous Locations (FSNT)
- Elevator Switches (FRAH)
- Passenger Elevator Car Enclosures (FRBK)

