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## *Building a Safer Idaho*

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### **Existing Elevator Firefighter's Service Installation Policy**

In 2007, the Idaho Legislature amended the Elevator Safety Act to state that all elevators that were existing prior to July 2004 shall be inspected **only** to the Safety Code for Existing Elevators and Escalators ASME A17.3. This amendment was due, in large part, to the fact that many elevators installed in Idaho previous to 2004 had not been inspected nor had been installed in compliance with the code at the time. Though there were adopted codes and installation requirements, there was not an effective regulatory system to assure compliance.

A17.3 states: "The purpose of this code is to establish minimum requirements that will provide a *reasonable* degree of safety for the general public." Anyone familiar with this document understands that it is significantly less restrictive than the code for new installations - A17.1 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators.

Section 3.11.3 of A17.3 states that Firefighter's Service shall meet, at the minimum, the 1987 requirement for any elevator with 25' or more of travel above or below the designated level (main exit discharge). The intent of Firefighter's Service is to prevent elevator users from being trapped in an elevator during a fire; being discharged at a floor that is on fire; and to provide firefighters the choice to use of the elevator during a fire.

Firefighter's Service has been required for elevators that were installed in 1973 or later. In some cases, Firefighter's Service must be installed or upgraded. In order to address this retroactive requirement, and understanding that not all elevator needs will be identical, the Division of Building Safety will allow the following time periods for Firefighter's Service to be functional.

Category A – The elevator controller and associated components have been designed to accommodate Firefighters Service and requires relatively minor component installation or adjustment to be functional – 60 days from inspection.

Category B – The controller will require a system modification overlay or other significant component or cable upgrades – 1 year from inspection.

Category C – The controller, travelling cables and other components must be replaced and may be part of a modernization upgrade – 2 years from inspection.

By establishing these categories, it is our intent to provide the building owners and elevator companies with reasonable and consistent timelines to plan, budget and install Firefighter's Service. A Certificate to Operate will be issued for the elevator if this is the only remaining discrepancy from the inspection. The certificate will be revoked if Firefighter's Service is not functional, and inspected within the time period designated for the relevant category.

Please contact me at (208) 332-7153 if you have any questions or concerns with this policy.

Al Caine  
Industrial Safety Program Manager  
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