



**ELEVATOR SUMP PUMP POLICY**  
**December 7, 2010**

The State of Idaho, Division of Building Safety has decided that the sump pump (or drain) required in elevator pits by ASME A17.1 Section 2.2.2.5 will now be considered **optional** rather than mandatory. This change was made in response to substantial and compelling feedback from several sectors of the elevator industry, including emergency personnel.

According to the ASME A17.1 Handbook: "This provision is intended to assist in maintaining elevator service during a fire emergency. Requirement 2.2.2.5 specifies the minimum capacity of a sump pump/drain equal to the output from a typical sprinkler head. This may not guarantee a pit free from water but will give firefighters additional time to use the elevator before water in the pit may interfere with elevator operation."

The feedback that we have received from the Idaho firefighter community is that during a fire emergency standard procedures are to disconnect power to the building. It is also a requirement that in case of fire, stairs are to be used instead of elevators. In the rare circumstance that would require use of the elevators by firefighters during an emergency, they would avoid the use of an elevator with any amount of water flowing to the pit. There are, however, other circumstances that would allow the firefighters to use the elevators under Phase II Emergency Conditions.

In the case of hydraulic elevators, the possibility of discharge of hydraulic fluid to the environment or municipal waste water facility is a very real concern. There are oil detection systems and interceptor/separators that are designed to prevent or reduce the environmental impact but come with design and maintenance issues of their own beyond the economic concerns.

All of the other provisions in Section 2.2 (PITS) remain applicable. If a sump pump is installed it must meet the requirements of this section.

Please contact Gary Barnes, Elevator Program Supervisor, or Al Caine, Industrial Safety Program Manager if you have any questions.

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