



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIES
Field Services & Public Safety
Elevator Program
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Pneumatic Passenger Elevator Announcement

October 2, 2023

The Elevator Program for the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) is turning to industry to determine whether pneumatic passenger elevators meet safety requirements under code.

Why this is happening now

Since 2014, L&I permitted the installation of these pneumatic elevators. At that time, the elevator code found in ASME A17.1-2010 (Section 5.3, "Private Residence Elevators") listed specific safety requirements. Since then, the state updated the code. The 2019 edition takes effect Oct. 2. Whether the elevators meet code is now the issue.

Next steps

L&I is reaching out to the Elevator Safety Advisory Committee (ESAC). The committee consists of industry representatives who advise the agency on issues relating to conveyances. We've requested ESAC form a special committee to address and review the 2019 code relating to pneumatic passenger elevators. The committee will include ESAC members, elevator contractors, and inspectors with Seattle and Spokane.

The review of the codes in ASME A17.1 and ASME A17.7 will likely take place through Jan. 5, 2024, according to the manufacturer PVE.

The report of the committee will go to ESAC, which will consider its recommendation to the agency. From there, the Elevator Program will then determine whether to continue permitting pneumatic elevators based on adopted laws and codes.

About current permits

It would be unfair to stop permitting and inspecting this type of conveyances on such short notice while waiting for a code review. Therefore, if a committee determination isn't reached by Jan. 5, 2024, L&I will suspend processing those permits. Contractors should adjust their business plans accordingly.

Respectfully,

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