



Elevator Safety Program - Technical Clarification

Equipment: Passenger/Freight Elevators & Private Residence Elevators	Topic: TC 18-08 Cellular Communication Devices
December 21, 2018	#: 18-08 Code/Rule: ASME A17.1-2016/CSA B44-16, Section 2.27.1 & 5.3.1.19.1

Issue: Communication systems used for elevator emergency are slowly moving from conventional communication systems to cellular systems. Since the primary function of the elevator telephone device is to be able to communicate with persons 24/7 in the event of an elevator-related emergency, the communication system needs to be reliable and provide a strong connection from the elevator car to the receiving location.

Background and Concerns: Some past cellular systems have not proven to provide the signal reliability compared with those connected to a landline system. However, technology is improving reliability over time. It is intent of the Elevator Program to be open to new concepts and technology while still ensuring compliance with the elevator code.

Clarification: Cellular systems may be used with the following conditions:

1. The communication system must be hardwired from the elevator communication device inside the elevator car to the point where the telephone signal leaves the building or structure.
2. The telephone signal to the communication device (e.g. dial tone, cellular signal, etc.) shall be monitored as required by ASME A17.1/CSA B44, 2.27.1.1.6.
3. In locations where it is known that cellular signals are problematic, weak, or impaired by weather, the elevator emergency telephone shall be connected to a landline system only.
4. VOIP or other similar systems that meet the above are acceptable.

Action Required: The above requirements will apply to all new installations. It will also apply to existing installations if compliance with ASME A17.1/CSA B44, 2.27.1 is triggered by an alteration.

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Questions may be directed to:

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Reviewed by Technical Specialists