



Elevator Safety Program - Technical Clarification

Equipment: Material Lifts (SAML)		Topic: T/C 18-01 Material Lift Installation of Hoistway Doors	
August 17, 2018	#: 18-01	Code/Rule: 296-96-05030(4)-2014	

Issue:

Material lift hoistway doors are being installed where the distance between the inside surface of the hoistway door to the edge of the hoistway sill exceeds 63 mm (2.5-in.).

Rule:

WAC 296-96-05030(4) [in part] *...be constructed with a distance of not more than 2½ inches between a hoistway gate or hoistway door face and a landing sill edge.*

Issue:

On some installations of material lifts required to comply with WAC 296-96, Part C1, the hoistway doors are being installed by persons other than the elevator contractor. This has resulted in a violation of the above rule. Once the doors are installed they may be fixed in place and in some instances moving the doors inward to correct the discrepancy becomes difficult. However, there is no rationale for designing an installation that will not comply with the applicable standards. And there is no reason to have companies not familiar with the code to install the doors. This work should be done by the elevator contractor.

Required Action:

Since the hoistway doors are part of the requirements for a material lift, the doors shall be installed by the elevator contractor holding the installation permit or be installed by a subcontractor working directly for the elevator contractor. The proper horizontal clearances shall be observed as measured between the inside surface of the hoistway door to the edge of the hoistway sill.

The plans submitted with the permit application shall clearly show the relationship of the hoistway door to the landing sill.

A variance may be granted for the installation of fillers providing the owner is made aware that these devices *may* reduce the overall clear width of the opening. The owner will need to accept this condition, or the door(s) will need to be relocated to the proper position or replaced with doors located in the proper position.

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Reviewed by Technical Specialists

Background and Concerns:

It appears that when the doors are installed by others, the elevator contractor is not overseeing the installation or is otherwise not involved in the installation of the hoistway doors/gates.

Another issue that may arise is whether the hoistway is required to be rated by the building code. In such cases the doors will be rated also. Since these doors are not being provided by the equipment installer, they may need to be modified to accept door interlocks or a lock and contact. This could invalidate the listing of the door panel(s).

Once an inspector has denied the installation due to the excessive distance between the hoistway door and the edge of the hoistway sill, the question of whether “sweeps” or “fillers” can be provided to reduce the distance. The rules for material lifts do not address fillers or sweeps since the requirement presumes that the doors were installed to meet the rule. A problem can arise with fillers or sweeps as it may reduce the clear width of the opening. This is especially true if the hoistway doors do not open more than 90 degrees. Thus, the owner *may* be disadvantaged by the narrower opening.

Another issue that “begs the question” is whether a company installing the hoistway doors is required to be a licensed elevator contractor employing licensed elevator mechanics. It is clear that the installation of the hoistway doors or gates is elevator work and needs to be performed by appropriately licensed companies and mechanics. It seems that if another company is working for the elevator contractor as a sub-contractor, the issue of licensing is met. However, if they are working for a general contractor, they should be licensed as required by RCW 70.87. This issue will need to be reviewed to ensure properly licensed companies and individuals are installing the hoistway doors/gates or, at the very least, are a sub-contractor working directly for an elevator contractor.