2022 Edition

ASME A17.1/CSA B44 Handbook

ASME A17.1-2022, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators

CSA B44:22, Safety Code for Elevators

Kevin L. Brinkman, PE

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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CONTENTS

Introduction vii

Foreword viii

Acknowledgments xii

Summary of Code Changes xiii

Part 1 **General** 1

1.1 Scope 1

1.2 Purpose and Exceptions 1

1.3 Definitions 3

Part 2 **Electric Elevators** 4

Scope 4

2.1 Construction of Hoistways and Hoistway Enclosures 4

2.2 Pits 23

2.3 Location and Guarding of Counterweights 29

2.4 Vertical Clearances and Runbys for Cars and Counterweights 32

2.5 Horizontal Car and Counterweight Clearances 41

2.6 Protection of Space Below Hoistways 44

2.7 Machinery Spaces, Machine Rooms, Control Spaces, and Control Rooms 45

2.8 Equipment in Hoistways, Machinery Spaces, Machine Rooms, Control Spaces, and Control Rooms 57

2.9 Machinery and Sheave Beams, Supports, and Foundations 73

2.10 Guarding of Equipment and Standard Railing 74

2.11 Protection of Hoistway Openings 74

2.12 Hoistway Door Locking Devices and Closed Detection Means, and Hoistway Access Switches 104

2.13 Power Operation of Hoistway Doors and Car Doors 115

2.14 Car Enclosures, Car Doors and Gates, and Car Illumination 138

2.15 Car Frames and Platforms 160

2.16 Capacity and Loading 170

2.17 Car and Counterweight Safeties 174

2.18 Speed Governors 191

2.19 Ascending Car Overspeed and Unintended Car Movement Protection 197

2.20 Suspension Means and Their Connections 211

2.21 Counterweights 222

2.22 Buffers and Bumpers 223

2.23 Car and Counterweight Guide Rails, Guide-Rail Supports, and Fastenings 232

2.24 Driving Machines and Sheaves 240

2.25 Terminal Stopping Devices 257

2.26 Operating Devices and Control Equipment 272

2.27 Emergency Operation and Signaling Devices 348

2.28	Layout Drawings	418
2.29	Identification	418
Part 3	**Hydraulic Elevators**	420
	Scope	420
3.1	Construction of Hoistways and Hoistway Enclosures	421
3.4	Bottom and Top Clearances and Runbys for Cars and Counterweights	421
3.6	Protection of Spaces Below Hoistway	425
3.7	Machinery Spaces, Machine Rooms, Control Spaces, and Control Rooms	425
3.11	Protection of Hoistway Landing Openings	425
3.12	Hoistway Door Locking Devices, Closed Detection Means, and Hoistway Access Switches	425
3.14	Car Enclosures, Car Doors and Gates, and Car Illumination	425
3.15	Car Frames and Platforms	425
3.16	Capacity and Loading	426
3.17	Car Safeties, Counterweight Safeties, Plunger Gripper, and Governors	426
3.18	Hydraulic Jacks	431
3.19	Valves, Pressure Piping, and Fittings	436
3.21	Counterweights	438
3.22	Buffers and Bumpers	438
3.23	Guide Rails, Guide-Rail Supports, and Fastenings	438
3.24	Hydraulic Machines and Tanks	439
3.25	Terminal Stopping Devices	439
3.26	Operating Devices and Control Equipment	440
3.27	Emergency Operation and Signaling Devices	443
3.28	Layout Data	443
Part 4	**Elevators With Other Types of Driving Machines**	444
4.1	Rack-and-Pinion Elevators	444
4.2	Screw-Column Elevators	453
4.3	Hand Elevators	458
Part 5	**Special Application Elevators**	459
5.1	Inclined Elevators	459
5.2	Limited-Use/Limited-Application Elevators	468
5.3	Private Residence Elevators	471
5.4	Private Residence Inclined Elevators	483
5.5	Power Sidewalk Elevators	484
5.6	Rooftop Elevators	485
5.7	Special Purpose Personnel Elevators	490
5.8	Marine Elevators	497
5.9	Mine Elevators	497
5.10	Elevators Used for Construction	502
5.11	Wind Turbine Tower Elevators	506
5.12	Outside Emergency Elevators	506
Part 6	**Escalators and Moving Walks**	507
6.1	Escalators	507
6.2	Moving Walks	547

Part 7 **Dumbwaiters and Material Lifts** . . . 566
Scope . . . 566
7.1 Power Dumbwaiters Without Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 567
7.2 Electric Dumbwaiters Without Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 572
7.3 Hydraulic Dumbwaiters Without Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 577
7.4 Material Lifts Without Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 577
7.5 Electric Material Lifts Without Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 580
7.6 Hydraulic Material Lifts Without Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 583
7.7 Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 583
7.8 Power Dumbwaiters With Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 589
7.9 Electric Material Lifts With Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 589
7.10 Hydraulic Material Lifts With Automatic Transfer Devices . . . 589
Part 8 **General Requirements** . . . 590
8.1 Security . . . 590
8.2 Design Data and Formulas . . . 591
8.3 Engineering Tests, Type Tests, and Certification . . . 604
8.4 Elevator Seismic Requirements . . . 610
8.5 Escalator and Moving Walk Seismic Requirements . . . 619
8.6 Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Testing . . . 621
8.7 Alterations . . . 653
8.8 Welding . . . 692
8.9 Code Data Plate . . . 692
8.10 Acceptance Inspections and Tests . . . 698
8.11 Periodic Inspections and Witnessing of Tests . . . 712
8.12 Flood Resistances . . . 727
8.13 Signs, Plates, and Tags . . . 727
8.14 Cybersecurity . . . 727
Part 9 **Reference Codes, Standards, and Specifications** . . . 729
Locating Codes, Standards, and AECO Certifications . . . 729
United States Codes and Standards . . . 729
Canadian Codes and Standards . . . 731
Accredited Elevator/Escalator Certification Organization (AECO) . . . 731
International Codes and Standards . . . 731
Out-of-Print Codes and Standards . . . 732
Additional Resource Material . . . 732

Nonmandatory Appendices
A Control System . . . 737
B Unlocking Zone . . . 737
C Location of Top Emergency Exit . . . 737
D Rated Load and Capacity Plates for Passenger Elevators . . . 737
E Elevator Requirements for Persons With Physical Disabilities in Jurisdictions Enforcing NBCC . . . 737
F Ascending Car Overspeed and Unintended Car Movement Protection . . . 737
G Top-of-Car Clearance . . . 737

H	Private Residence Elevator Guarding	737
I	Escalator and Moving Walk Diagrams	737
J	Relationship of Pit Ladder to Hoistway Door Unlocking Means	738
K	Beveling and Clearance Requirements	738
L	Index of Alteration Requirements for Electric Elevators, Hydraulic Elevators, Escalators, and Moving Walks	738
M	Inertia Application for Type A Safety Device Location of Test Weight [8.10.2.2.2(ii)(2)]	738
N	Recommended Inspection and Test Intervals in “Months”	738
P	Plunger Gripper Stopping Distances	738
Q	Explanatory Figures for the Definitions of Elevator Machinery Space, Machine Room, Control Space, Control Room, Remote Machine Room, or Remote Control Room	738
R	Inspection Operation and Hoistway Access Switch Operation Hierarchy	738
S	Horizontally and Vertically Sliding Doors — Illustrations of Detection Zones (2.13.3.4 and 2.13.3.5)	738
T	Inspection and Replacement of Steel Wire Ropes	739
U	Design Requirements — Traction Elevator Suspension System	739
V	Building Features for Occupant Evacuation Operation	739
W	Wind Turbine Tower Elevator Clearances	739
X	Acceptance Tests	739
Y	Maintenance Control Program Records	739
Z	Mass and Closing Time of Horizontally Sliding Elevator Doors	739
AA	Checklist for Firefighters’ Emergency Operation (8.6.11.1)	739

Index		740
The Author		765

INTRODUCTION

This is the 14th edition of the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 Handbook. The idea for the Handbook came from Ed Donoghue and has grown from that simple idea to the valued resource we all know today. The history behind the Handbook is important, so I have included Mr. Donoghue's Introduction from the 2013 edition to provide that background.

> *In 1976 I was appointed to the A17 Editorial Committee with Al Land (Chair), William "Bill" Crager (A17 Chair), and Manuel Gutierrez (ASME Secretary). At the time, the A17 Editorial Committee was charged with a total editorial review of the A17.1 Code for the 1978 edition. Every Rule was scrutinized and editorially revised for clarification when appropriate.*
>
> *The Committee met weekly for this massive project. To avoid unintentionally changing the content of a Rule, it was essential that the Committee members had a clear understanding of the technical requirements and their intent. Bill Crager had a long history as a member of the A17 Committee, including 15 years as Committee Chairman. At the meetings, the members would look to Bill for his recollection of why a Rule was in the Code. Bill possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of the history of A17 requirements. His typical response would start by stating, "At the (date) A17 Meeting, the Committee approved the Rule for the following reason." At our next meeting, Bill would arrive with documents from his home file backing up his recollection — including the meeting dates.*
>
> *I quickly came to the conclusion that the "Bill Cragers" on the A17 Committee were mostly retired or would be retiring from Committee activities over the next few years. Their expansive knowledge of the past committee work and the rationale for the A17.1 Rules would no longer be available. This would be a loss not only to the A17 Committee but also to the users of the Code.*
>
> *I concluded that a Handbook for A17.1 would be an invaluable addition to the A17.1 Code, as the NEC® Handbook was an invaluable supporting document for the NEC®. I approached Mel Green, then director of ASME Codes and Standards, with a proposal to write an ASME A17.1 Handbook. He thought the idea had merit, and the first edition of the A17.1 Handbook was published at the time of publication of the 1981 edition of the A17.1 Code. A new edition of the Handbook was published thereafter with each new edition of the A17.1 Code and later the A17.1/B44 Code..." [Ed Donoghue]*

With each passing year, we see experts in the industry retire and we welcome new faces to the Code development process. The Handbook, much like the Code itself, is a living document. Each edition updates and expands upon the information provided in previous editions. I consider it a privilege to author this edition of the Handbook and hope to continue the tradition and build on the foundation that Mr. Donoghue and so many others have helped to create.

—Kevin Brinkman