ASME A17.4-2015
(Revision of ASME A17.4-1999)

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Guide for Emergency Personnel

(Includes Evacuation Procedures and Firefighters' Service Operating Procedures)

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

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FOREWORD

Since 1921, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) has developed and published safety codes and standards for elevators, escalators, and related equipment.

In the 1960s, a demand from many building owners, lessees, and operating managements emphasized a need for a guide for the evacuation of passengers from stalled elevator cars. To meet this need relating to safety, the A17 Executive Committee initiated a project of study that resulted in the development of the A17 Guide for the Evacuation of Passengers From Stalled Elevator Cars. This first edition was endorsed by the A17 Standards Committee in December 1972 and was published in 1973.

Since the publication of the first edition of the Guide, changes to the A17.1 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators prompted the ASME A17 Committee to revise the Guide and keep it updated with new editions. The procedures contained in this Guide are based on past or current A17.1 editions and do not take into account any local jurisdictional revisions that may have been made.

The following is a list of approval dates and dates of issuance of all of the editions of the Guide:

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J. Shimshoni
D. M. Stanlaske

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GUIDE FOR EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

PART I
EVACUATION PROCEDURES

SECTION 1.1
INTRODUCTION

It is recommended that any evacuation of passengers from elevator cars be performed under the direct supervision of elevator personnel, as their experience and expertise ensure the resourcefulness necessary to cope with the various complex hazards that may arise. However, in the event of an emergency, time may be of the essence in evacuating passengers, and waiting for elevator personnel may be impractical. Under emergency conditions, the passenger evacuation must be performed by personnel who are carefully selected and trained as described in this Guide.

Elevator personnel should also follow these procedures. However, due to their knowledge of elevator systems, they may utilize other procedures to safely evacuate passengers (e.g., move the car to a landing to allow egress through the elevator door).

CAUTION

Newer elevators may not be equipped with an in-car emergency stop switch, so utilizing the mainline disconnect with proper lockout/tagout procedures is extremely important.

SECTION 1.2
RESCUE TEAM ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING

1.2.1 Organization

In order to ensure that a rescue by people other than experienced elevator personnel is performed safely, the building management must select and train their employees in the proper evacuation procedures. A rescue team should be organized for each shift, with specific duties assigned to each member. Where this is impractical, the building management should coordinate with the local authorities responsible for rescue operations, such as the police department or