



**Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Division of Elevator Safety  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 4-600  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
312-814-8734  
Fax 312-814-8959**



**MINUTES  
ELEVATOR SAFETY REVIEW BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, February 14, 2008  
Springfield, Illinois**

Board Members Present: Chairman, Frank Christensen  
William Bogdan  
Rod Gilles  
Richard Gregory  
Mark Hertsberg  
Tom Jirik  
Darrel G. Swienton  
Kelly Weller

OSFM Staff Present: John Fennell, Legal Counsel  
Robert Capuani, Director of Elevator Safety  
James Aubin, Inspector  
Chet Janus, Inspector  
Richard Mayer, Inspector  
Jodi Schrage, Project Manager

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. by Chairman, Frank Christensen

**Old Business**

Legal Counsel, John Fennell, gave a report on a letter that was sent to Kone that rescinded the Board's action taken at the August, 2007 meeting. At the January 10, 2008 meeting the Board rescinded its blanket variance granted to Kone at the August, 2007 meeting.

The Board has the authority to approve a new system that is not yet in the national codes. This approval is not a variance, it is an exception. The Board has the authority to grant a variance by job site, which is a very different issue and presumes that a violation exists. The variance is granted to remedy. The Otis Gen 2 with coated steel belts, or the 8 mm cables are new systems. If the Board is satisfied that these meet the safety requirements the Board can allow these systems. It would be prudent that the locations of jobs installed with exceptions be registered with the Board and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Mr. Fennell discussed his memo regarding the Board's authority for variances and exceptions. It was decided that Kone's request was an exception and not a variance. He explained what the Code permits.

As a result of this discussion, Mr. Gregory moved that the Board approve the system of suspending traction elevators with steel wire ropes, 8 mm in diameter and above. The motion was seconded and Mr. Gregory then explained the suspension system to the members of the Board.

After further discussion the motion failed by a vote of 3 - 3 with one abstaining.

Bob Capuani then gave the Elevator Safety Program progress report. As of February 11<sup>th</sup> 78 municipalities have signed the Agreement, with 69 letters of intent, 74 contractors, 10 limited contractors and 105 inspectors, 10,646 mechanics, 603 apprentices. Conveyance registrations as of February 11<sup>th</sup> were 15,012 with approximately 1,500 to 2,000 more.

Mr. Capuani reported that we still have not received a response from the Joliet Fire Department regarding the Otis Elevator request to install a computer to monitor elevators. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Capuani reported that by April 1<sup>st</sup> the NEC test should be up and running. There will be a link on the Elevator Safety Division website for locations where the test can be taken. He believes the tests are given monthly.

New inspection forms were developed by Thompson Inspection. A meeting had been held with five inspection companies. Four of the five approved the new forms. The forms will be placed on the Elevator Safety Division website for inspection company use. Mr. Gregory moved for acceptance of the new forms, Mr. Swienton seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

The Elevator Safety Review Board has previously issued a decision to allow the state licensed QEI employees of a state licensed elevator companies to separately witness periodic pressure testing until February 28, 2008. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding an additional extension to conduct the tests. Various representatives of elevator companies and inspection companies addressed the issue with the elevator companies requesting additional time and the inspection companies stating they have not received that many calls in this regard. The number of inspectors in the State of Illinois was discussed in regard to handling the load of inspection work to be done. Elevator companies felt a one-year extension should be granted in order to complete the pressure tests. Mr. Gregory moved that due to the limited number of independent QEI certified and State of Illinois licensed elevator inspectors, and the large number of elevators located in the northern part of the state, that the Board hereby allow Category 1 tests of elevators by witnessed by an inspector both QEI certified and licensed by the State of Illinois. The witnessing inspector shall be permitted to be an employee of the elevator contractor licensed by the State of Illinois, including the contractor responsible for the maintenance of the subject elevator. The test shall be performed by an elevator mechanic licensed by the State of Illinois and employed by a contractor licensed by the State of Illinois. The inspector and the mechanic shall not be the same person. This provision to expire on December 31, 2008 unless otherwise revoked by the Board at an earlier time. The motion was seconded and subsequently failed.

After discussion Mr. Weller amended the original motion to extend the witnessing of periodic pressure tests for six months until August 14, 2008, and that a weekly schedule is required by companies to schedule the next week's tests for random monitoring by the state. Forms are to be left

in the machine room with the names and numbers of the mechanics and inspectors. All tests must be performed on time and if they are not on time the third party inspection company can write up violations. No additional extensions will be granted. Mr. Gregory seconded the motion and the motion carried 4 – 3.

### **New Business**

Bob Capuani welcomed Rich Mayer to the State of Illinois as a new inspector in the Elevator Safety Division.

Mr. Gregory stated that the November minutes were still incorrect and had him listed as Mr. Douglas. Mr. Capuani reported that they had been corrected and just needed to be posted on the website.

It was then moved and seconded to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2008 meeting. The motion carried 7 - 0. It was commented that these were the most well written minutes to date.

### **Public Comment**

Tom Manning, an elevator constructor, reported that an operating engineer and an ironworker installed a prefab elevator on a project he was inspecting. Neither were licensed elevator mechanics or apprentices. After discussion it was agreed that this topic had been settled and it was not a jurisdictional issue. However, the rules clearly state that only a licensed elevator constructor should have been doing this type of work. The Board is waiting for information from John Fennell as to how to proceed.

Don Plass, a code official, from the Village of Hoffman Estates, and representing code officials from the Illinois Council of Code Officials, asked about the type of forms that the municipalities are to send in to the Office of the State Fire Marshal by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and the annual report of work by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Capuani reported that we are accepting Excel spreadsheets via email and that State I.D. numbers of the elevators must be on the report. They are kept on file in the Elevator Safety Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. I.D. numbers are being collected. An FOIA request for information to obtain these numbers can be submitted for a particular jurisdiction.

Tom Happ, Elevator Inspections, revisited the use of the new forms that were approved by the Board earlier during the meeting. He questioned why both the ASME form and the new forms could not be used. The Board approved the new forms and they are what the State of Illinois will be using, not the ASME forms.

Todd McManus, Kone, had quite a few questions on the variance/exception that had previously been presented to the Board. Mr. Fennell explained that at the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the blanket variance granted at the August 2007 meeting was rescinded, and that now each individual conveyance will come in for an exception. It will be on a case by case basis as opposed to a system-wide exception. System documentation can be presented for one case and then can be referred to for each additional case that an exception is requested for. Mr. Weller stated that everything from August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to January 8, 2008 is grandfathered.

Sheila Saett had questions regarding the new inspection forms and where violation explanations should be addressed. It was agreed that any notes should be placed in the comment section of the forms.

Ted Praizzom, Quality Elevator, questioned safety bulkheads and what needs to be done if an elevator does not have a safety bulkhead, and how do you find out for sure if an elevator has one or not. It was suggested that the manufacturer be contacted to give this information if it cannot be located.

Jeffrey Kneer, Kone, then revisited the terminology of exception vs. variance regarding a variance submitted to the Board in November, 2007. It was determined that this was an exception and not a variance and as a result of that determination minor terminology needs to be changed. This is in regard to a short toe guard for Farnsworth Group. A 48" toe guard is the problem, but refuge space is not compromised. They would like to use a retractable toe guard. Other than that the exception could be ruled on by the Board. Mr. Gregory moved that with the initialed change the Board grant the exception for a retractable toe guard. The motion was seconded. The motion carried 7 – 0.

A motion was made to accept Otis Elevator's application for new technology (Coated Steel Belts, 9 GEN 2 MRL's) that was discussed at the January 10, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded, and carried 7 – 0.

The Board then adjourned into closed session.

Returning to open session it was moved and seconded to address letters to the two inspectors under investigation with copies to the villages, their employers, and the QEI association that they belong to.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7 - 0.

ed