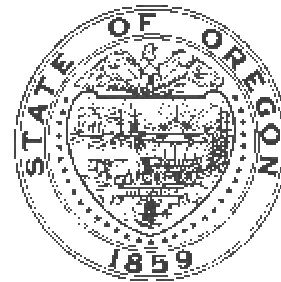


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November 12, 2000

ELEVATOR SAFETY PROGRAM CODE INTERPRETATION

OR-2000-005

Applies to all existing installations.

Subject: Counterweight Guards
Rule No: ASME A17.3, Rule 2.1.5
ASME Interp: N/A
Effective: November 12, 2000

Counterweight guards are required for all elevators. Where existing conditions of the installation do not allow sufficient clearance between the counterweights and the car, the following alternatives shall apply:

1. A warning sign shall be provided on the wall behind or adjacent to the counterweights;
 - The sign shall read, "Warning – Unguarded Counterweights".
 - Lettering shall be not less than 2-in. (50-mm) high and be of a contrasting color to the surrounding background.
 - The sign shall be placed at a nominal height of 60-in. from floor level.
2. The area around the counterweight guide rails and buffer shall be provided with a minimum of 5-foot-candles illumination at floor level and be sufficient to illuminate the warning sign.
 - The area of impact¹ shall be clearly marked on the pit floor with safety stripping.
3. Safety chains shall be connected to the bottom counterweight or bottom counterweight frame.
 - The chains shall be a minimum of 24-in. long and be spaced a maximum of 6-in. apart.

James R. Runyan
Chief Elevator Inspector

¹ Area of Impact, is considered to be the area occupied by the counterweights when the car is at its extreme limit of upward travel.