

Summer
2019

<http://www.aema.com>



An Association of Members of the Accessibility Industry

AEMA News Bites

President's Message

Dear AEMA Members,

Summer has been a very active season for AEMA. In keeping with our organization's vision, your elected AEMA Board and Officers have graciously given of their time and effort on matters involving safety codes and standards, education, legislative activity, and more. I'm honored to serve alongside each and every one, as their combined knowledge of the industry keeps our organization relevant and moving forward.

It has also been a season of transition, as Katrina Fleming, Secretary and paid administrative staff, handed over her baton to Marsha Rucker. Katrina did an outstanding job, and I know I speak for everyone when I say, we truly appreciate her contribution to AEMA over the past three years and wish her all the best. In addition to administrative tasks, Marsha will continue to monitor state legislative activity and alert members in states where bills are introduced. Your awareness and early conversation with your legislators, at the local level, is key.

I would like to take this opportunity to focus on the importance of certifying your technicians. With the safety of those dependent on properly installed and well-maintained equipment being a priority, I believe the CAT Program meets the need for formally trained and certified technicians. The program, approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, may also be advantageous in states proposing new or amended licensing requirements.

You're invited to attend our AEMA Annual General Meeting next month for a time of networking and discussion. Between now and then, consider adding your name to the list of those willing to serve on the board of directors.

Again, as we look to the future and prepare for changes that affect our industry and member organizations, my goal is to help ensure that AEMA continues to be a valuable resource and an advocate for our members.

Hope to see you in Grand Rapids,
Ron Rucker

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1
CSPC Update	2
Code Update	3
Annual General Meeting	5
NAEC Meeting Announcement	5
Dave Balmer Scholarship	5
Member Spotlight	6
Welcome New Members & AEMA Admin	6
TrackBill Update	6
Updated Website Coming Soon!	6



CPSC Update

Safety Alert to Protect Children from a Deadly Gap between Doors of Home Elevators

August 1, 2019

Today, the Accessibility Equipment Manufacturers Association (AEMA) and the National Association of Elevator Contractors (NAEC) join me in warning consumers with home elevators and visitors to homes with elevators to protect small children from a deadly gap that may exist between the doors. The distance between the inner elevator car door and the room access door (hoistway door) on home elevators may be too wide, allowing a small child to enter the space and close the room access door without opening the elevator car door. If this happens, the child can be seriously injured or killed when the elevator moves.

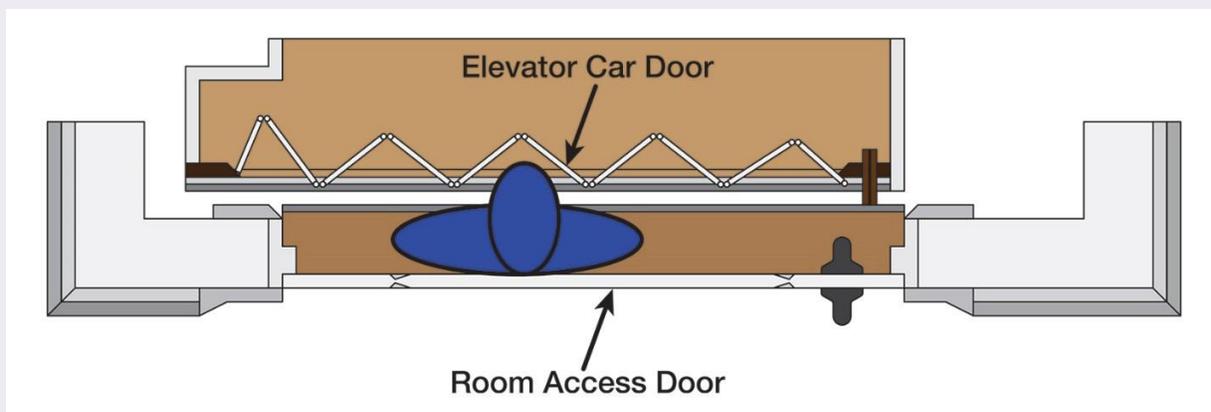
Residential elevators are commonly found in multi-level homes, townhomes, vacation homes and rentals, and in large homes that have been converted to inns or bed-and-breakfast hotels.

CPSC is aware of several tragic incidents in which children became entrapped between the doors leading to death, serious fractures, traumatic asphyxia, and lifelong injuries.

We are urging consumers to have a qualified elevator inspector examine their home elevator for this dangerous gap and other potential safety hazards, inspecting to the latest safety standard, ASME A17.1 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators.

Dangerous gaps can be eliminated by placing space guards on the back of the room access door or installing an electronic monitoring device that deactivates the elevator when a child is detected in the gap. We also urge consumers to contact their elevator manufacturer or an elevator installer to obtain these critical safety devices and protect children from this hidden hazard.

We advise consumers to report any safety incident involving residential elevators at: www.SaferProducts.gov.



If the gap is too large, a small child can become entrapped between the room access door and the elevator car door.

(This is an overview only – please consult the actual code documents for the specific requirements.)

1. **New Version of A17.1 – 2016** was published in Nov 2016

Section 5.2 – LULA Elevators

The following items have been approved for inclusion in the A17.1 – 2019:

- 5.2.1.16.2 – Location of Data Plate clarified
- 5.2.1.4.3, 5.2.1.4.4, 5.2.1.4.5, 5.2.2.1.1 and 5.2.2.1.1 were modified to remove the reference to “refuge space” as this term was removed from the sections 2 and 3 respectively.

Section 5.3 – Residence Elevators

- **Major Revisions to the 3 & 5 rule – now $\frac{3}{4}$ & 4. This change also provides information on where clearances are to be measured depending on the specific hall door/car gate combination provided**
- New requirements added for Elastomeric Buffers – 5.3.1.14
- Changes made to the Emergency Signaling Device Section – 5.3.1.19
- A new Section 5.3.1.6 has been added to address the requirements for Private Residence MRL Elevators
- Clause 5.3.1.8.2 was modified removing all references to vertically sliding doors which are not permitted on residence elevators.
- Clause 5.3.1.16.2(a)(8) was modified removing the restriction for rack & pinion drives, thus harmonizing the requirements in Canada and the US.
- Clause 5.3.1.8.2.2 was modified to clarify the car door monitoring requirements. If both the car door or gate and the landing door or gate are not cycled at a landing then the elevator will not accept calls.
- Clause 5.3.1.7.1 was modified to improve and clarify the requirements to prevent someone from reaching around or under a hoistway door.

2. **New Version of the A117.1-2017** – Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities published in May 2017.

New update cycle started

3. **Next Version of A18.1 – 2020**

Changes approved so far:

- Performance area lifts
- Doors and Gates
- IPL emergency backup alarms
- Minor editorial revisions

(This is an overview only – please consult the actual code documents for the specific requirements.)

Some active Project Teams:

- Re-formatting the standard (easier to read only)
- Runway door unlocking rules (authorized personnel)
- Periodic inspection and safety device language cleanup
- Cleanup fascia language
- Runway door unlocking devices
- Manual operation and emergency power
- Factors of safety clarification
- Guarding of drive and suspension means
- Remove references to Type B and C safeties
- Clarify controls mounting requirement
- MCP to include running the lift once per week
- Emergency communication for deaf and hard of hearing users
- Updated references to other standards
- Controller not located in VPL tower
- Flexible hose and fittings
- Rack and pinion Engineering and drive system requirements
- Calculating the mean angle of a stairway
- Terminal final limit control via software
- Inspection Guide
- Coordination with other documents
- Rules for RF and IR

1. California Residence Elevators

- a. New rules to incorporate $\frac{3}{4}$ and 4 door gap rule
- b. With Rob Murphy's help now similar to A17.1 rule
- c. As originally proposed – impossible to comply with
- d. Thanks to Rob for making it work

Next Meeting:

September 14th, 2019 - Niagara Falls

AEMA AGM Meeting & Reception

Date: Wednesday, September 18th

Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Location: Grand Gallery B/C

@ Devos Place Convention Center

NAEC Fall Convention & Expo

SEPTEMBER 16 – 19

National Association of Elevator Contractors (NAEC)

70th Annual Convention & 2019 Expo

Amway Grand Plaza/Devos Place CC

Grand Rapids, MI

Megan Ragan / Megan@naec.org



AN ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE
ACCESSIBILITY EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY



Dave Balmer Scholarship

In 2013, our industry marked the passing of our colleague Mr. Dave Balmer who was a pioneer in the accessibility lift industry, was deeply involved with code committees, and a founding member of AEMA.

Dave started his career as an elevator helper mechanic, became the Director of Engineering for Concord Elevator, and went on to be a Professor at the University of Ontario, Durham College Skilled Trades Center. Dave was passionate about raising the profile and professionalism in our industry, particularly, the education and training of apprentice and experienced lift technicians.

It is this legacy that we want to acknowledge and celebrate. It is our honour to announce the Dave Balmer Memorial “AEMA” Scholarship.

A scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 will be awarded annually to the technician of an AEMA member company determined to be the most deserving by the AEMA Committee. The scholarship is to be used by the technician recipient for enrollment in industry tech training programs.

Application can be found on the [News Page](#) of our website.

The Controversial Process of Redesigning the Wheelchair Symbol

It has its own emoji, but where did the new Accessible Icon come from?

By Natasha Frost - March 29, 2018

JUST 50 YEARS AGO, THE International Symbol of Access did not exist. Known variously as the Wheelchair Symbol and “the little blue sign,” the icon features an individual sat on their wheelchair, apparently motionless, with their arms perched on the sides. Created by the Danish design student Susanne Koefoed in 1968, in the original version, the person on the wheelchair was missing a head.

For the full article please enter this in your browser:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/wheelchair-symbol-redesign>

Welcome New Members

Residential Elevators, Inc.

Erin Ennis, President
2958 Wellington Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32309
800-832-2004
eennis@residentialelevators.com

Custom Elevator Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Ken Herrmann, President
5191 Stump Road
PO Box 749
Plumsteadville, PA 18949
888-443-2800
ken@customelevatorinc.com



AEMA Administration

AEMA would like to sincerely thank Katrina Fleming for her dedication to our organization. Her talent and efforts over the past three years are greatly appreciated. We wish you all the best, Katrina!

We want to welcome Marsha Rucker, with Neoteric Elevator Concepts, as she joins AEMA to help with part-time administrative needs. Marsha, with an ADN from the University of Charleston and an RBA from WV State College, has a background in surgical nursing. She's been in the elevator industry for fourteen years, and is currently serving on NAEC's A/R Committee.

Please contact Marsha with any questions.
Marsha Rucker - AEMA – Administration
(681) 230-2502 - secretary@aema.com



Trackbill

AEMA continues to actively monitor legislative activity that affects our industry. Through TrackBill's software, daily alerts are received on legislation in the U.S. Congress and all 50 states based on key words specific to our industry. If a bill is introduced and identified as one to be tracked, members in the affected state(s) are forwarded the details. As tracked bills progress through the legislature, notice of bill updates, amendments, and hearings allow members to be aware, develop a strategy, and meet with their local legislators to voice their concerns when necessary.

If your company operates in multiple states, and you would like to receive multi-state updates, please send an email to secretary@aema.com and Marsha will add those to your listing.

Website – Update in Progress

We're excited to announce that a website redesign is in progress. Our goal is to connect with you, our members, and keep you up-to-date on codes and standards.