



**Elevator Advisory Board Meeting  
December 7, 2005  
Raleigh, NC**

Attendees: Jonathan Brooks, Dept. of Labor, Elevator Bureau  
Nick Mebane, Thyssenkrupp Elevator  
Chris Boerner, Thyssenkrupp Elevator  
Roger Shumate, International Union of Elevator Constructors  
Joseph Brummett, Elevator Specialists of Carolina, Inc.  
Gordon Perry, Schindler Elevator Company  
Dave Trimmer, Kone, Inc.  
Eric Barber, Otis Elevator Company  
Buddy Godwin, The Godwin Company  
Tom Chambers, Dept. of Labor, Elevator Bureau  
Nancy Vick, Dept. of Labor, Elevator Bureau  
Andy Frazier, Dept. of Labor, Standards and Inspections Division

Jonathan Brooks opened the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Elevator Advisory Board by welcoming everyone. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved. Copies of minutes and other information are on our website.

**Private Residence Elevators/Mechanics License**

Mr. Brooks is an ASME17 Standards Code Committee Member. Residential elevators are the fastest growing segment in the elevator business. Suggestions have been to inspect these elevators when new and look at them again when sold (on acceptance basis). Commissioner Berry is not a supporter of these type yearly inspections. Current legislation prevents state inspectors from inspecting private residence elevators. The draft in legislation now states only state certified inspectors would handle; a member of the Department of Labor.

There are many being installed at beach areas and they are not by code. The cities cannot handle the costs for these inspections and training. The state should take the lead on this. It should be license-required.

*Questions/Issues are:*

What happens to the existing elevators in private residences? How can we get the number of elevators out there now? It would be hard to find all existing residences. We would need help from realtors, builders, etc. to work with us. We would also need to partnership with municipalities, Department of Insurance, etc. Are they tracking these elevators currently?

The Elevator Bureau is getting more and more calls for inspection from the public sector. Currently, the building inspectors handle these. They should be required to submit

applications for new elevators, applications for permits, etc. to state office. A memo should be sent to the building inspector in order to install a private residence elevator. There should be a fee structure for them also.

Bureau would almost have to start fresh (after a certain date) with only new elevators. It would be a tremendous task to inspect older buildings and enforce violations. It could be allowable, if asked by a public sector individual or company, to come and inspect. Older ones could be grandfathered under new law. Buyers should be informed of elevator conditions. If a seller sells with an elevator problem, the buyer could go to Department of Labor if accident occurs. We would need to certify the elevator and have inspection clause saying "must be kept in compliance with.....". Home inspections require this as well as insurance companies.

If this task is turned over to our Bureau, this Advisory Board will be an intricate part of setting up the standards. Our opinions will be asked for. Commissioner Berry wants this to be initiated by the industry, not the state. If legislation changes, we will have to inspect those that request it.

Advisory Board members agree with inspecting these elevators for the safety of the public. It is hard to see the Department of Labor managing it all and having the same controls as it has now.

Commercial vs. Private Residence Elevator: Section 5.2 covers private residence elevators. A single family dwelling has a private residence elevator. There are companies putting private residence elevators in Duplex Units that are used in municipalities for rental only. These should have commercial elevators.

We must include handicap lifts, moving stairways, etc. also. Licensing of mechanics will follow in order for them to install elevators in private residences. There could be a manpower problem in the Bureau in order to handle all that will be required.

All Board members feel/agree that private residence elevator inspections should be done to code. Just the logistics and fine points must be figured out.

Buddy Godwin, Eric Barber and Roger Shumate were appointed as Sub-Committee for recommendations on how to implement or approach this. Everyone else is also encouraged to participate with them. It was decided to have another Board meeting in a couple months to discuss in more detail.

The proposed legislation (handout) is only a model law. It is in line with the statutes of the state with licensing of elevator mechanics as well as private residence inspections. This could be in the May session of the Legislature. The code says we must have certified personnel for inspections on elevators. This legislation did not come from the Department of Labor; it came from the industry. There are about 450 working on elevators in this state as mechanics (union and non-union). New licensing would include everyone working on elevators. There are currently a few places to get licensed. There are exams existing that are nationally accredited, such as Elevator World Test, CET. All Department of Labor inspectors should be certified. With all their experience, they should be grandfathered as already certified elevator mechanics. The Advisory Board would need to create a test or accept the existing nationally certified test, and have a test

for out-of-state people applying. If there is a test for North Carolina, it should be acceptable in other states. We do not need to get into test writing. This Board is spelled out in current legislation as a governing body which means more work for us.

North Carolina is well-known for being at the top of the list on legislation for laws governing safety; elevators and amusements. We need to be pro-active and have all the answers of what to do and how to do it before this is put into effect.

This will be an industry-changing issue in the state. We should all take the proposed legislation back, read it and bring questions, notes ready for a meeting in February to discuss further. We could have some of the Commissioner's staff attend to give their input and expertise. Roger Shumate will get information from other states that have adopted this regarding continuing education, PACE Program, etc. We could have an insurance person at the next meeting to give insight into what they do now. We could also have a building inspector for the state attend.

An all day meeting was planned for Wednesday, February 22, 2006, 9:00-5:00.

### **Hydraulic Elevators and Single Bottom Jacks**

All prior to 1970, no bulkhead required. The 2000 code changed safety bulkhead. Elevator Bureau has a list (from 1971) of single bottom jack elevators. If there is an alteration to the old one, it is required that a safety bulkhead be added. The Bureau will clarify this and get clear answer to all questions.

### **Penalties/Field Issues**

If help is needed in completing the application forms, please let the Bureau know. We will be glad to help the person responsible for completing these at your office on the procedures/processes in order to submit to us.

Please notify the Bureau as to the status of all older applications (two years or more). There are no expiration dates on applications/permits prior to May 1, 2005.

### **2005 A17.1 Supplement**

This will be adopted in its entirety this year. This supplement deals with the machine room-less elevator. No more variances will be required after this is final.

### **Suspension Means**

This is on hold for now. In the meantime, a variance is required for alternative suspension means.

### **Bureau/Company Field Issues**

Companies are doing a better job of having the permits out at the jobs. The Bureau does not want to close down any company because of no permit.

### **2006 Bureau Projects**

- Certification for amusement program
- Will have apprenticeship program setup and have inspectors certified in elevator field
- July 1, 2006 computer program re-vamped, more information for our inspectors and elevator companies, more efficient and faster

The next meeting of the Advisory Board was set for Wednesday, February 22, 2006. It will be held in the Labor Building, 4 West Edenton Street, Raleigh, NC, in the 2nd floor conference room.