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## Emergency Car Signaling Devices & Communications

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### Issue:

Inquiry 05-05 was submitted by TSSA to Standards Committee for clarification on a number of questions regarding emergency signaling devices and communications. This interpretation has been reformatted from the original response to position answers with the questions. The inquiry was approved by Standards Committee in September of 2006.

The responses were with respect to ASME A17.1a 2002 however the interpretation also applies to CSA B44 Update # 1 2002. The response to Question 2 (e) (1) and (2) have also been modified to identify with high rise buildings.

This interpretation may be used as a guideline for later editions of the ASME A17.1/CSA B44.

### Interpretation, Policy or Procedure:

#### *Inquiry 05-05*

Subject: 2.27.1 Emergency Car Signaling Devices

Edition: A17.1a – 2002 – **CSA B44 Update #1 2002**

Question (1): Section 2.27.1.1.1 requires a two-way communications means between the car and a location in the building that is readily accessible to authorized and emergency personnel.

(a) Other than the communication means inside the elevator, must the building communication station be provided at all times?

#### **Answer**

(1) (a) **No, requirement 2.27.1.1.2 makes it clear that there are conditions where the communications means may be answered from outside the building. The intent for the requirement in 2.27.1.1.1 is shown in the balloted rationale, which is as follows:**

**“to direct a call, for assistance, from the car to authorized personnel (See Section 1.3) who are responsible for taking action.” If there are no authorized personnel in the building there is no reason to provide a communication means in the building, except when required by 2.27.1.1.4.**

(b) Is the requirement to provide an onsite building communication station dependent on the elevator’s travel, specifically, elevators with travel under 18m?

#### **Answer**

(b) **See response to 1a.**

(c) Is it expected that emergency personnel whom may be arriving on site should have quick access to the building communication station?



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**Answer**

(c) See response to 1a.

(d) Is a locked building manager's office, hence not readily accessible, considered an acceptable location for the building communication station?

**Answer**

(d) Yes, for the two-way communication means that complies with 2.27.1.1.3.

(e) Is a machine room considered an acceptable location for the building communication station?

**Answer**

(e) See response to 1d.

Question (2): With regards to 2.27.1.1.2 related to buildings not staffed 24 hours per day and an additional on or offsite communication location.

(a) When authorized personnel are not expected to staff a location 24 hours per day, the phrase 'additional on or offsite' location, suggests a second (additional) location is necessary. Is the 'first' onsite building communication station (referred to in 2.27.1.1.1) still required?

**Answer**

(a) No. See response to 1a.

(b) If the call is required to be directed within 30 seconds if the building is not appropriately staffed, must the onsite building location 'ring' prior to going off site?

**Answer**

(b) No. See response to 1a.

(c) Does 'within 30 seconds' permit the call to be directed immediately to the additional location without delay?

**Answer**

(c) Yes. See explanation to 1a.

(d) If the call is permitted to go to the additional location without delay, must the onsite building location have a simultaneous 'ring'?

**Answer**

(d) There is no requirement for a simultaneous ring. See also 1a.

(e) If the call is being addressed by the additional staffed location, must be the onsite building location be able to

(1) interrupt the call?

**Answer**



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No, except as required by 2.27.1.1.4. (High Rise Buildings)

(2) join in the call?

**Answer**

No, except as required by 2.27.1.1.4. (High Rise Buildings)

Question (3): With regard to 2.27.1.1.1 and 2.27.1.1.2 is there any requirement to be able to call into the elevator from the building communication station?

**Answer**

No, except as required by 2.27.1.1.4. (High Rise Buildings)

Question (4): Requirement 2.27.1.1.3 (b) indicates the button shall be identified as “help” where the word “help” is in quotes, and 2.26.12.4 requires the “help” button to be identified with the phone symbol.

(a) Is “help” the generic identification term which the code is using to refer to this button?

**Answer**

Yes

(b) Must the button be identified with the phone symbol?

**Answer**

Yes

(c) Must the button have the word help on or adjacent to it?

**Answer**

No

A17 Standards Committee Approval: September 20, 2006