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**Existing Elevators With No Pit Ladder**

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**Issue:**

Safe and convenient access and egress from existing elevators pits that do not have a pit ladder.

**Interpretation, Policy or Procedure:**

**Inspection:**

When performing any inspection on an existing elevator that does not have a pit ladder for safe access and egress from the pit that is greater than 914 mm (36 inches) in depth below the sill of the pit access door; an order shall be issued to the owner of the device. Do not issue the order to the contractor in the case of an alteration unless the pit access ladder is part of the scope of the alteration!

The order shall provide the following options:

- a) The owner shall provide a noncombustible fixed vertical pit ladder located within reach of the access door to allow for safe entry and exit from the pit; or
- b) The owner shall provide a secure ladder readily available on site at all times, for use by elevator personnel only, and a sign indicating the location of the ladder shall be posted in the pit readily visible when the bottom landing door is opened. Where keys are required to access the ladder, the keys shall be readily available on site at all times.
- c) If the pit ladder is located more than 1000 mm (horizontally) from the hoistway door unlocking device, then an auxiliary unlocking device is required for safe egress from the pit.

Note: If a portable ladder is provided a second inspector or elevator mechanic (at additional cost to the owner) shall be provided for safe access and inspection of the pit.

**Risk/Hazard/Safety**

Climbing into a pit without safe access or egress using a ladder could create a falling or entrapment hazard in the pit. Therefore if you encounter a pit without a permanent or portable ladder available do not complete the pit inspection.

**Special Note**

To establish a minimum standard for safe and convenient access and egress from the pit, the CSA B44-1975, Supplement No.3-1982 is used as a benchmark with a height requirement from the pit floor to the pit access door sill of 914 mm (36 inches). In some cases the hoistway may not accommodate the pit ladder, and alternative means and construction need to be considered. Portable ladders shall meet or exceed the minimum standards defined under the Occupational Health and Safety Act of Ontario.



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**Supporting Documentation**

**Ontario. Regulation. 209/01, Elevating Devices .**

Duty of owner re access

Section 37. **Every owner of an elevating device shall ensure that, (a) there is unobstructed access to and egress from the elevating device;** (b) there is a safe and unobstructed access to the machinery space, including the electrical equipment, of the elevating device regardless of weather conditions;

**ASME A17.2-2007 Guide for Inspection of Elevators, Escalators, and Moving walks**

**ASME A17.1-2007/CSA B44-07 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators**