Subject: UNAUTHORIZED MODIFICATIONS OF DOVER DOOR LATCHES MAY CREATE POTENTIAL HAZARD

Sent to: ALL ELEVATOR CONTRACTORS IN SCOPE A1

1. ORDER TO CONTRACTORS MAINTAINING DOOR ELEVATORS

On every Dover elevator maintained by your company:

a) that is equipped with door latches, type 168 and 169, you are requested to ensure that the latch is positively locked down, as described below;
b) if equipped with door latches type 163 or incorrectly modified type 169, you are requested to carry out changes as described below.

Should you need any further information, contact Dover Corporation directly.

2. EXCERPTS FROM DOVER SERVICE NOTE 85:03 OF May 1, 1985.

From: Roger Medgley
Subject: Unauthorized Latch Modification

While investigating an unrelated problem, we discovered a modified latch arrangement that is potentially dangerous.

The spring and cam had been removed from an 169 latch making it equivalent to an 163 latch. (See diagrams on the reverse side of Hard Copy of the Ruling.)

The spring and cam are designed to hold the latch down if someone tries to open the door when the car is not at the floor. Without this hold-down arrangement, the force of the interlock on the latch tends to impart an upward rotation to the latch. Under the right combination of conditions the latch can be unlocked from the hall side. For this reason the 163 latch was replaced on all jobs years ago.

The 171 latch does not need a hold-down mechanism because it pivot point is lower than the point of engagement between the interlock and latch. Any force imparted to the latch by the interlock tends to rotate the latch downward holding it firmly in the locked position.

Please check all installations on your route to make sure no unsafe arrangements exist. Advise your Supervisor immediately if you find any questionable latch arrangement.

Where 168 and 169 latches are used, test to see that the latch is positively locked down. The latch should not move upward by pushing on it. It should release only when the toggle is released by the lift rod moving up. Adjust the lift rod shorter if the toggle action fails to lock the latch down.

Replace any defective latches.

T.Gordon Smith, P.Eng. Director
This latch was supposed to be replaced on all jobs. Replace with if you find any that were overlooked.

Replace with if spring or nylon cam is broken, missing or modified.

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