DIRECTIVE

ESCALATOR STEP/SKIRT PERFORMANCE INDEX FIELD TESTING

This Directive is being issued by a provincial safety manager pursuant to section 30 of the Safety Standards Act.

Date of Issue: February 17, 2014


General Details

This Directive is issued to all Owners of Escalators and Licensed Elevating Devices Contractors who install, alter or maintain escalators to clarify the requirements regarding Step/Skirt Performance Index Testing for escalator acceptance and step to skirt entrapment incidents.

Specific Details

This Directive is effective immediately.

Step/Skirt Performance Index Testing became part of the CAN/CSA B44 code in the 2004 code edition. The effective date of this edition in British Columbia was on 15th Feb 2007.

(A) New or Altered Escalators.

Testing as per CAN/CSA B44-07/A17.1 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators clause 6.1.3.3.9 & 8.10.4.1.1(t) Step/Skirt Performance Index must be performed on escalators specifically for:

a) All acceptance inspections for new escalators
b) All acceptance inspections for major alterations

(B) Existing Escalators.

a) Where a step to skirt entrapment incident has occurred on an existing escalator installed and inspected to the code edition CAN/CSA B44-04 or later; owners of the escalator and/ or the Licensed Elevator Devices Maintenance Contractor must shut down and remove the escalator from service and inform BCSA. No work shall be performed on the affected unit until the Licensed Contractor has verified the Step/Skirt Performance requirements in the presence of a BCSA Elevating Devices Safety Officer.

b) Where a step to skirt entrapment incident has occurred on an existing escalator installed and inspected under a code edition prior to CAN/CSA B44-04, owners of the
escalator and/or the Licensed Elevating Devices Maintenance Contractor must shutdown and remove the escalator from service and inform BCSA. No work shall be performed on the affected unit until the Licensed Contractor has verified compliance to the applicable Code.

The Licensed Elevating Devices Contractor performing Step/Skirt Performance Index Testing will have 60 days from the date of this Directive to obtain the Step/Skirt Performance Index Testing equipment and to train their staff on how to perform the testing. Within the 60 day period, should the Licensed Elevating Devices Contractor not be able to perform the Step/Skirt Index Testing, Safety Officers will note this as a non-compliance and a re-inspection will be required. After the 60 day period should the Licensed Elevating Devices Contractor not be able to perform the Step/Skirt Performance Index Testing where required escalator/s will not be put into service.

Houssam Hamze  
Provincial Safety Manager (Acting) – Elevating Devices  

References:  
Bill 19 – 2003  Safety Standards Act  
B.C. Reg. 101/2004  Elevating Devices Safety Regulation  
B.C. Reg. 105/2004  Safety Standards General Regulation  
B44-07/A17.1  Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators  

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