

Industry Bulletin - Emergency and Standby Power Testing for Elevators

Florida Building Code- Building (FBC), Chapter 30, 3003, Emergency Operations, outlines the requirements for buildings that are required to have, or are furnished with, Standby Power. Authority of the AHJ to establish requirements for the testing of Emergency/Standby Power Operations is provided in ASME A17.1 (2013) and (2016), 8.11.1.3. The AHJ, for the State of Florida is the Bureau of Elevator Safety (Bureau), receives its power from Florida Statutes (FS) 399, Elevator Safety, and as supported by Florida Administrative Code (FAC).

FAC 61C-5.013(b) requires the Category 1, Periodic Safety Tests as established in ASME A17.1, Part 8, and described in ASME A17.2-Inspector's Guide, be performed annually. The requirements for Emergency and Standby Power Systems are covered under ASME A17.1, 2.27.2. Requirements for Standby Power System testing and inspection can be found under 8.6.4 and 8.11, respectively. ASME A17.1, 8.11.1.2, references and incorporates ASME A17.2 (2017) for guidance in performing the inspections and tests.

ASME A17.1 (2013) and (2016)- Safety Code for Elevators

Installation and design requirements are found in ASME A17.1, 2.27.2.

Special Note: *FBC 3003.1.4, requires that the machine room ventilation or air conditioning be connected to the Standby Power source where provided.*

The requirements that the annual testing of Emergency/Standby Power be performed are in Code as follows:

ASME A17.1 (2013) and (2016)

Electric Traction Units:

8.6.4.19.7- Testing shall be performed as per A17.2, Item 1.17.2.1

8.11.2.1.1(q)- Periodic Inspection Requirements- Inside Car; and references Item 1.17

8.11.2.1.4 (l)- Periodic Inspection Requirements- Outside Hoistway; referencing Item 4.12

Hydraulic Units:

8.6.5.14.3(f)- Testing shall be performed as per A17.2, Item 1.17.2.2

8.11.3.1.1(q)- Periodic Inspection Requirements- Inside Car; and references Item 1.17

8.11.3.1.4 (k)- Periodic Inspection Requirements- Outside Hoistway; referencing Item 4.12

ASME A17.2 Guide for Inspections of Elevators

ASME A17.2, Guide for Inspections of Elevators, Item 1.17, provides guidance and offers details in the methods and procedures for the testing of Emergency/Standby Power. This testing is to be performed whenever Emergency/Standby Power is provided and as follows:

-Acceptance Tests- both Initial and Alteration inspections

-Periodic Testing (See ASME A17.1, 8.11.1.1.2)

SPECIAL NOTE: *ASME A17.1, 8.6.1.2.2(b), requires that "Procedures for inspections and tests not described in ASME A17.2..." be provided in the MCP.*

Since ASME A17.1, 8.6, is retroactive for all elevator units, any unit that is provided with Emergency/ Standby Power must be tested annually. The Bureau recommends that the annual testing of the elevator (witnessed by a Florida Certified Elevator Inspector) be coordinated with the local Fire and Building AHJs as well as the Fire Alarm and Emergency Generator companies, to ensure complete compliance.