

Alterations Process for Elevator Companies

8/2011

All alterations must be permitted and inspected.

(See attachment for RCW 70.87.100)

All alteration permits must be posted on the job site and code data tags installed for final inspection.

(See attachment WAC 296-96-01000)(See ASME A 17.1 8.6.1.5.1)

The local inspector must be notified of any alteration that needs inspection. The WAC rule allows us to require this in writing at least seven day before inspection. Currently we waive the requirement to request inspection in writing we require installers to call the local inspector.

(See attached WAC rule 296-96-02400)

In 2001 we changed the WAC for alteration process to clearly define alteration process. If an alteration fails and inspection it is to be placed out of service. We also allowed for some alterations to be left in service before the alteration inspection.

The intent is clear that the installer needs to call for an inspection before turning on the elevator for use. The inspector will set up an appointment for inspection with the installer for alterations that require installer to be on site.

For minor alterations the installer may only return the elevator to service once they have verbal permission from either: the local inspector, the inspector's supervisor or central office, otherwise the conveyance will remain out of service. (See attachment WAC 296-96-02405)

If an alteration fails and inspection it is to be placed out of service until:

1. The corrections are completed and alteration passes a re-inspection.
2. A complete by date is approved by central office.

Note: Some elevators may be placed in service if the installer and the conveyance owner agree to the completion date and signify that by signing the inspectors report.

Failure of an alteration will include expired permits, permits not on site, code data tags not posted and alteration not meeting the minimum standards per code.

What needs an alteration permit? In this state we define an alteration as any addition or replacement that needs to be tested once installed.

(See attachment WAC 296-96-01005)

Permit may be renewed for \$51.60 before they expires. If they expire the permit will be based on the original cost of the permit.

(See attachment WAC 296-96-01005)

RCW and WAC Rules For Alterations

Attachments

RCW 70.87.100 Conveyance work to be performed by elevator contractors--Acceptance tests--Inspections. (1) All conveyance installations, relocations, or alterations must be performed by an elevator contractor employing an elevator mechanic.

(2) The elevator contractor employing an elevator mechanic performing such conveyance work shall notify the department before completion of the work, and shall subject the new, moved, or altered portions of the conveyance to the acceptance tests.

(3) All new, altered, or relocated conveyances for which a permit has been issued, shall be inspected for compliance with the requirements of this chapter by an authorized representative of the department. The authorized representative shall also witness the test specified.

WAC 296-96-01000 What is the permit process for conveyances? (1) Prior to construction, alteration, or relocation of any conveyance, the licensed elevator contractor shall:

(a) Submit an installation application to the department. See WAC 296-96-01010 through 296-96-01025.

(b) Plans must be submitted to and approved by the department. See WAC 296-96-01030.

EXCEPTION: Most alterations will not require plans.

(c) Post an approved permit from the department on the job site.

(d) Obtain and pass an inspection prior to placing the conveyance in service. See WAC 296-96-01035.

(2) The owner must obtain and renew an annual operating certificate for each conveyance that they own, except for residential conveyances. See WAC 296-96-01065.

(3) After initial purchase and inspection, private residence conveyance(s) do not require an annual operating certificate. However, annual inspections may be conducted upon request. See WAC 296-96-01045 for the permit process.

ASME A17.1 2004/2005

8.6.1.5.1 A data plate that indicates the Code and edition in effect at the time of installation and any alteration

(see 8.7.1.8) shall be provided. The data plate shall also specify the Code and edition in effect at the time of any alteration and the applicable requirements of 8.7. We require it states what was altered.

WAC 296-96-02400 When must the department be notified for a new or altered inspection?

(1) The person or firm installing, relocating, or altering a conveyance shall notify the department in writing, at least seven days before requesting any inspection of the work, and shall subject the new, moved, or altered portions of the conveyance to the acceptance tests.

(2) The department may grant exceptions to this notice requirement.

WAC 296-96-02405 What is the inspection and approval process for alterations? The following process must be followed when performing alterations:

(1) Obtain an alteration permit from the department prior to performing the alteration. The permit application must include detailed information on the scope of the alteration.

(2) Take the conveyance out-of-service and perform the alteration.

(3)(a) If the conveyance requires an inspection prior to being returned to service (as identified on the alteration permit), you must contact the department to perform an inspection and:

(i) If the conveyance passes the inspection, the conveyance may be placed back into service.

(ii) If the conveyance fails the inspection, the conveyance must remain out-of-service until the corrections are made and approved by the department.

(b) If the conveyance is not required to be inspected prior to being returned to service, you must contact the department to perform an inspection and:

(i) If the conveyance passes the inspection, the conveyance may remain in service.

(ii) If the conveyance fails the inspection, the conveyance will be placed out-of-service until the corrections are made and approved by the department.

WAC 296-96-02410 Are there additional work requirements when performing an alteration? For certain types of alterations additional work may be required as part of the alteration and prior to approval of the conveyance. These alterations include, but are not limited to:

(1) Replacements of controllers will require the following:

(a) Fire fighter service requirements must be met in accordance with the most recent code adopted by the department.

(b) Seismic requirements ("Derailment and/or seismic switch as required") must be met in accordance with the most recent code adopted by the department. In addition, the car must operate according to A17.1 seismic requirements.

(c) Lighting in the machine room and pit must comply with the most recent code adopted by the department.

(d) Electrical outlets in the machine room and pit must be of the ground fault interrupter type.

(2) Replacement of controllers and a car operating panel and/or hall fixtures:

(a) The requirements of subsection (1) of this section must be met.

- (b) All panels and fixtures must meet the applicable (e.g., height, sound, Braille, etc.) requirements in accordance with this chapter.
- (3) Replacement of door operators and/or door equipment: Any changes to these items require the installation of door restrictors.
- (4) Hydraulic piping: Replacement or relocation of hydraulic piping will require the installation of a rupture (overspeed) valve.

WAC 296-96-01006 What type of conveyance work requires permitting and inspection? (1)

All installations and relocation of conveyances requires permitting and inspection. All conveyance work must be performed by an elevator mechanic licensed to perform work in the appropriate category. (See WAC 296-96-00910).

(2) All alterations require permitting, inspection, and must include but are not limited to:

(a) Items identified in ASME A17.1.

(b) Any conveyance work that requires the conveyance to be tested prior to being returned to service, including:

(i) The replacement or repair of any parts, the installation of which would require recalibration or testing (e.g., brakes, hydraulic valves and piping, safeties, door reopening devices, governors, communication systems, cab interiors, car/hall buttons, etc.); or

(ii) Work performed on components or equipment affecting or necessary for fire and life safety (e.g., cab interiors, systems associated with fire recall, etc.).

(3) Permits and fees are not required for normal function and necessary maintenance and repair performed with parts of equivalent materials, strength, and design or for any conveyance exempted by RCW 70.87.200.

Contact the department if you have any questions or need assistance determining if a permit and inspection are required.

WAC 296-96-01005 When do I need and what are the steps in obtaining a permit? (1) See WAC 296-96-01000 for the permit process.

(2) Construction and alteration permits are valid for one year from the date of issue. However, permits may be renewed if you:

(a) Apply for a renewal permit before your current permit expires;

(b) The department approves your request for a renewal permit; and

(c) You pay a \$51.60 renewal fee to the department for each permit you renew;

(3) If your permit has expired you must reapply for a new permit.