



BULLETIN RB06-046

(Updated 2015 Dec 18)

INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC CHAIR LIFTS ADJACENT TO REQUIRED EXITS

Reference: Article 3.4.3.3., Article 9.8.6.3., Subsection 9.9.5. and Sentence 9.9.6.1.(3)

Article 3.4.3.3. "Exit Width Reduction"

Article 9.8.6.3. "Dimensions of Landings"

Article 9.9.5.4. "Obstructions in Exits"

Sentence 9.9.6.1.(3) "The swing of doors described in **Sentence (1)** shall not reduce the width of the path of travel to less than

- a) the required exit width in exit corridors and passageways, and
- b) 750mm on exit stairs or landings."

Commentary / Relevant Facts:

Collapsible electric chair lifts are becoming increasingly more popular both in residential and in institutional buildings where access to upper floors has to be provided for persons with disabilities. It has been queried whether our Division has any authority in regulating these devices.

The mechanical and electrical functions of all elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters and chair lifts come under the jurisdiction of the provincial Safety Codes Council. However, the Building Regulations Division of the City of Calgary has the responsibility of ensuring that the installation of such devices will not compromise the exit requirements from floor areas.

Particular attention should be given to the potential reduction of exit widths beyond the limitations specified in **Articles 3.4.3.3., 9.9.5.5. and 9.9.6.1..**

Conclusion:

The following guidelines should be adhered to in enforcing the above Articles:

Items #2-7 apply only to buildings accessible to the public.

1. There shall be a permanent parking space for the stair platform lift that does not reduce or encroach on the required exit width and is out of the normal traffic path.
2. The stair platform lift shall be key operated to allow only authorized persons to operate the platform lift.
3. A person on the main floor shall be designated to respond to a call for use or see that the platform lift is returned to its storage position if the signal indicates it has not been returned to that position.
4. There shall be a call button properly identifying that it will bring a designated person to operate the platform lift.
5. There shall be a loud audible signal that can be heard by the designated person if the platform lift is not returned to its permanent storage position within five minutes after it has been used.
6. The accepted fire safety evacuation plan for the building shall include provisions to ensure safe and orderly evacuation in the event the platform is in use when the building is required to be evacuated.
7. Any addition to or enlargement of a stair enclosure on a particular floor, to provide a parking space for the platform lift, shall have the same fire resistance rating as the stair enclosure would otherwise be required to have in order to preserve the continuity of the stair fire separation.
8. The installation shall conform to appropriate sections of the Safety Codes Act.

Chief Building Inspector

This bulletin is issued by The City of Calgary Inspections & Permit Services.

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