



## RB14-029

### INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC CHAIR LIFTS ADJACENT TO REQUIRED EXITS

**Reference: Alberta Building Code 2014 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.

#### **Regulation Bulletin General Policy Statement**

Unless stated otherwise, the Code references in this Regulations Bulletin are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC 2014). Regulation Bulletins do not overrule the ABC 2014 nor constitute a relaxation of the Code. They serve to clarify the Code in areas where the latter is ambiguous or does not cover a specific topic. Regulation Bulletins are City of Calgary clarifications for staff use to enable consistency in the application of the Code. Regulation Bulletins should always be read in the context of the appropriate requirements of the Code.

## **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