



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	8/14/09	Interpretation	09-011
Topic	Visual illumination in elevator cars		
Code Section(s)	2007 CBC Section 3006.5.5		
Requested by	Greg Walker Regional Sales Engineer Otis Elevator Company 711 East Ball Road, Suite 200 Anaheim, CA 92805 (714) 563-7123 <a href="mailto:greg.walker@otis.com">greg.walker@otis.com</a>		

The January 1, 2009, supplement to the California Building Code included new requirement, Section 3006.5.5. This Section states “Visual illumination shall be provided inside all elevator cars indicating that the automatic sprinklers, smoke detectors, or heat detectors in the elevator hoist way or elevator machine room have activated.” We have several questions relating to this requirement.

1. The ASME A17.1-2004 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, which is referenced by the State of California Elevator Safety Orders, 2.27.3.1.6(h), requires a visual signal to be installed on the elevator car operating panel. In addition, 2.27.3.2.3 requires the visual signal to illuminate intermittently when a machine room or hoist way fire alarm initiating device, or a machine room heat detector, is activated.

**Will the intermittently illuminated visual signal required by ASME A17.1-2004 comply with the requirement of “visual illumination” inside the elevator cab if it continuously monitors and operates upon the activation of automatic sprinklers, smoke detectors, or heat detectors in the elevator hoist way and elevators machine room?**

Yes.

- 2. If the answer to Question #1 is “NO”, what are the minimum design requirements for the “visual illumination” inside the elevator cab?**

N/A

- 3. The ASME A17.1-2004 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, which is referenced by the State of California Elevator Safety Orders, 2.8.2.3.2, requires the power to be removed from the elevator prior to the application of water from sprinklers located in the elevator machine room or elevator hoist way (aka: shunt trip disconnect device). This regulation also requires removal of all power to the elevator cab.**

**If the shunt trip disconnect device has activated, and has removed all power from the elevator cab, will the “visual illumination” still be required to be activated inside the elevator cab?**

No.

- 4. If the answer to Question #3 is “YES”, how can we resolve the direct conflict between this regulation and the State of California Elevator Safety Code?**

N/A