

**ASME A17.1-2022/CSA B44:22**

(Revision of ASME A17.1-2019/CSA B44:19)

# **Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators**

**Includes Requirements for Elevators,  
Escalators, Dumbwaiters, Moving  
Walks, Material Lifts, and Dumbwaiters  
With Automatic Transfer Devices**

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# ASME FOREWORD

(22)

The first edition of this Code was published in January 1921. It was prepared by an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Committee on Protection of Industrial Workers with the assistance of representatives of a number of interests including manufacturers, insurance carriers, regulatory bodies, and technical societies.

Subsequently, ASME requested the American Engineering Standards Committee (AESC) to authorize the organization of a Sectional Committee to undertake a revision. The AESC acted favorably on this request and in January 1922 assigned sponsorship for the project jointly to the American Institute of Architects, the National Bureau of Standards, and ASME, all three of whom had taken an active part in the preparation of the first edition of the Code.

The organizational meeting of the Sectional Committee A17 was held in November 1922. A number of meetings of the Committee were held during the next two years, and in July 1925, a revision of the 1921 Code was completed, approved by the AESC, and published as an American Standard.

Subsequent to the publication of the 1925 revision of the Code, the necessity for development research on the design and construction of car safeties and oil buffers and for the development of test specifications for various parts of elevator equipment was realized.

As a result, a Subcommittee on Research, Recommendations, and Interpretations was appointed in 1926. This subcommittee held regular meetings thereafter until interrupted by the Second World War in 1940, and carried on an extensive test program at the National Bureau of Standards in connection with oil buffers and car safeties. Subsequent to the war, the name of this subcommittee was changed to "Executive Committee for the Elevator Safety Code."

The information gained as a result of these tests, together with the developments that had occurred in the design of the equipment as a result of installations made in very tall buildings, prompted the Sectional Committee to prepare and issue the third edition of the Code in 1931. The third edition was approved by the Sectional Committee in February 1931, and subsequently by the sponsors and by the American Standards Association (ASA, formerly the AESC) in July 1931.

Further experience and developments in the design of elevator equipment led the Sectional Committee, in line with its policy of revising the Code periodically, to prepare the fourth edition in 1937, which was approved by the sponsors and by the ASA in July 1937.

A fifth edition of the Code was well under way in 1940 when it was necessary to suspend the work due to the Second World War. However, a number of the revisions already agreed upon by the Sectional Committee and approved by the sponsors and by the ASA in April 1942 were issued as a supplement to the 1937 edition. They were subsequently incorporated in a reprint of the 1937 edition in 1945. In response to public demand, requirements for private residence elevators were also issued in a separate supplement, ASA A17.1.5-1953, and incorporated into the Code as Part V in the 1955 edition.

The Sectional Committee reinitiated consideration of the fifth edition of the Code in 1946. Due to the considerable period that had elapsed since the fourth revision in 1937, and to the very extensive developments in the elevator art, the Committee decided that the Code should be completely rewritten and brought up to date.

Special subcommittees were appointed to prepare the revisions of the various requirements. The membership of each subcommittee consisted of persons especially familiar with the requirements to be covered by that subcommittee. Fifteen subcommittees were set up with a total membership of over 150 persons. The membership of these subcommittees was not confined to members of the Sectional Committee. It also included other persons having expert knowledge of the subjects under consideration by the subcommittees. These subcommittees and their personnel were listed in the 1955 edition of the Code.

The drafts prepared by these subcommittees were widely circulated to interested groups for comment. After review of the comments and correlation of the drafts, the fifth edition of the Code was approved by the Sectional Committee, subsequently by the sponsors, and by the ASA in June 1955.

In December 1957, a Supplement to the Code listing a number of revisions was approved by the ASA and published by ASME.

A sixth edition was published in 1960 that incorporated the revisions contained in the 1957 Supplement as well as approximately 96 revisions that were approved by the Sectional Committee in March 1960.

In 1958 the scope of the A17 Code was enlarged to include moving walks. The membership of the Sectional Committee was expanded to include manufacturers whose primary interest in the Committee was the development of rules and regulations on moving walks. A subcommittee prepared a Safety Code for Moving Walks, which was approved by the