MEMORANDUM

To: All Illinois Licensed Contractors, Inspection Companies/Inspectors, and Municipalities with Municipal Agreements with OSFM

From: John Andersen, Division Manager, Elevator Safety Division, Office of the State Fire Marshal

Re: Elevator Safety Administrative Rules; Updated Door Lock Monitoring Frequently Asked Questions (October 2026)

Date: October 13, 2026

Amendments have been proposed for the Illinois Elevator Safety Rules. Please share this information with conveyance owners. Pending their adoption, anticipated to be effective during summer 2027, conveyances for which a permit is issued (building permit for new construction or a permit issued for the repair/modification of an existing conveyance) after the amended Rules' effective date will be required to be designed, constructed, installed, operated, inspected, tested, maintained, altered, and repaired in accordance with updated standards and recommended practices, including:

- American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)
  - Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators (ASME A17.1-2025) (rather than 2019).
    - Elevators permitted for installation after the effective date of the Rules will be required to have door lock monitoring at the time of installation. Existing elevators without door monitoring systems will have additional time to come into compliance with the door lock monitoring rules. Existing elevators have a proposed compliance date of January 1, 2034.
  - Performance-Based Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators (ASME A17.7-2025) (rather than 2007, reaffirmed 2017)
  - Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts (ASME A18.1-2023) (rather than 2017).
  - Standard for the Qualification of Elevator Inspectors (ASME QEI 1-2024) (rather than 2018).
  - Guide for Inspection of Elevators, Escalators, and Moving Walks (ASME A17.2-2023) (rather than 2017). (Recommended Practice)
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
  - Automated People Mover Standards (ANSI/ASCE/T&DI 21-2013).

The Illinois Elevator Safety Review Board has discussed code updates during its previous three meetings and voted to approve the proposed language on September 10, 2026.

The text of proposed revisions is available online. The text of revisions can be found online at: https://www.ilsos.gov/content/dam/departments/index/register/volume50/register_volume50_41.pdf

A fact sheet on the proposed rules is available at: Part 1000 Fact Sheet-2026

The text of the currently applicable Rules can be found at: http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/041/04101000sections.html.

Public Comments on the proposed rules should be submitted to SFM.Rules@illinois.gov

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Door Lock Monitoring or Door Monitoring Systems

Question 1: What is door lock monitoring[1]?

Door lock monitoring (or door monitoring system) refers to a system that prevents an elevator from moving unless its doors are fully closed and locked. A door monitoring system is designed to monitor the position of an elevator's doors and prevent automatic operation if any door issues are detected, such as with door wiring, door locks, door contacts, or a door system bypass. Door lock monitoring is intended to ensure that an elevator cannot operate in such circumstances, which would prevent the elevator doors from opening automatically and any passenger falling into the hoistway, being crushed during unexpected movement of the elevator, or otherwise being exposed to danger of injury or death. Elevator codes began including requirements for door lock monitoring after past serious accidents and fatalities.

Question 2: Which elevators require door lock monitoring?

Door lock monitoring is currently required by the 2019 edition ASME A17.1 *Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators* (ASME A17.1 (2019)) in new and altered elevators. The 2025 edition ASME A17.1 *Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators* (ASME A17.1 (2025)), which is under consideration for adoption, contains requirements for door lock monitoring to be retrofitted into existing elevators. The door lock monitoring requirement in ASME A17.1 (2025) applies to all automatic passenger and freight elevators with power operated car doors that are mechanically coupled to landing doors that do not already have door lock monitoring. Some existing elevators have door lock monitoring in place. See additional information below. Check with your elevator company if you are unsure of the status of door lock monitoring for your elevator(s).

Question 3: What if my elevator has door lock monitoring today?

Under proposed rules, existing elevators which have a door monitoring system installed under current and previous code editions must continue to comply with the door monitoring system requirements of the ASME A17.1 edition under which they were installed.

Question 4: What if I am planning to alter (modernize) my elevator?

As with all alterations (modernizations), the alteration must comply with the ASME A17.1 edition in effect at the time of permitting.

Question 5: Why did door lock monitoring become a requirement in the Codes?

To protect the elevator-riding public from risk of serious injury and death associated with open elevator doors and elevator movement. New York City led the nation in instituting door lock monitoring[2] for existing elevators after tragic incidents in 2011 and 2019 in which elevator passenger deaths occurred. Door lock monitoring is already required for new and altered elevators in Illinois and across the United States. However, serious elevator accidents and fatalities continue to happen, some of which could have been prevented had door lock monitoring been installed. Door lock monitoring has been required for existing elevators in a number of other states over the past 10 years.

[1] Door lock monitoring is required by ASME code A17.1 (2025 edition) Section 2.26.5 – Systems to Monitor and Prevent Automatic Operation of the Elevator With Faulty Door Circuits.
[2] In New York City, door lock monitoring for all automatic elevators was required by January 1, 2020.

Question 6: When do elevator owners have to have door lock monitoring in place to comply with the door lock monitoring requirement?

Under current rules, elevators permitted for installation or alteration, will be required to have door lock monitoring compliant with ASME A17.1 (2019) at the time of installation or alteration. Existing elevators without a door monitoring system are not currently required to have door lock monitoring. Existing elevators which have a door monitoring system installed under the current or previous code editions must comply with the door monitoring system requirements of the ASME A17.1 edition under which they were installed.

Under proposed rules [include link to proposed rules], elevators permitted for installation or alteration after the effective date of the rules will be required to have door lock monitoring compliant with ASME A17.1 (2025) at the time of installation or alteration, while existing elevators without a door monitoring system (with power operated car doors that are mechanically coupled to landing doors) will be required to have door lock monitoring compliant with ASME A17.1 (2025) by January 1, 2034. Existing elevators which have a door monitoring system installed under previous code editions must comply with the door monitoring system requirements of the ASME A17.1 edition under which they were installed at the time of inspection.

Question 7: How can existing elevators without a door monitoring system implement door lock monitoring?

Compliance can be achieved in two ways: 1) Adding a DLM overlay to the existing controller; or 2) Alteration (Modernization) of the elevator. The approach taken will be determined by the elevator owner and may depend on factors such as the age of the equipment, usage, budget, and the owner's plans for the building. These factors can affect cost.

If any owner is advised that their elevator must be modernized for compliance, OSFM encourages the owner to request proposals from different licensed elevator contractors and consider whether to involve an elevator consultant in their project. Based on communications with industry cohorts, OSFM understands that it is highly unlikely that any elevator will need to be modernized to comply with this proposed door lock monitoring requirement due to age and vintage of the equipment.

Question 8: Who can I contact about getting door lock monitoring for my elevator?

A list of all licensed elevator contractors is available at https://sfm.illinois.gov/about/divisions/elevators/elevator-contractors-inspectors-and-inspection-companies.html.

Question 9: What if my elevator has doors that are not mechanically coupled?

The door lock monitoring requirement in ASME A17.1 would apply to all automatic passenger and freight elevators with power operated car doors that are mechanically coupled to landing doors. The door lock monitoring requirement does not apply to elevator car doors which are not power operated car doors mechanically coupled to landing doors. If your elevator has car doors which are not power operated car doors mechanically coupled to landing doors, then the requirement does not apply.