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A17.6 CODE FOR SUSPENSION MEANS REVIEW

A17.6 sets forth guidance to the elevator industry for the appropriate use of means for suspension, compensation, and governors. The bulk of the code addresses manufacturing and the use of steel wire ropes, aramid fiber ropes and elastomeric coated steel belts. The code does detail type, size, construction, AS WELL AS repair and replacement of all means of suspension.

There are numerous changes having been made in Section A17.1-2.20 (SUSPENSION MEANS AND THEIR CONNECTIONS) between the 2007 and 2016 edition. In A17.1-2010, 2.20.1 was amended and the first reference is given to use and adherence to A17.6. There are many changes made in 2010 edition that remained in the 2013 and 2016 editions. A17.6 was not introduced to the Inspector's Guide (A17.2) until the 2017 edition of that code.

The replacement criteria section in A17.6 is perhaps the most important part as we view from a maintenance and inspection concern. Section 1.10 defines replacement requirements for steel cables, Section 2.29 defines replacement requirements for aramid fiber ropes, and Section 3.7 defines replacement requirements for coated steel belts. The requirements for steel cables has remained virtually the same over years except new requirements are in place for smaller diameter cables. The requirements for aramid fiber and coated belts were newly written since 2007. Repair and replacement information is no longer finely detailed in A17.1 but is referenced as being required according to A17.6 language.

In my opinion, A17.1-2016, reference code 8.6.3 (Replacements) clearly refers to A17.6 as the defining language for determining proper repair and replacements of suspension means. It appears that by adopting A17.1—2016, A17.6—2010 is to be used as the basis for all new suspensions and the repair and replacement of existing suspension means.

All major and independent elevator contractors are currently using the A17.1—2016 and A17.6—2010 code editions in the manufacturing and installation processes. There should be little to know financial impact utilizing these rules.

Steve Stuard
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