



MICHAEL R. PENCE, Governor
STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Memorandum

To: Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission

From: Thomas Hendricks, Chief Inspector, Elevator/Amusement Ride Section, Fire and Building Safety Division, Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Re: Request for revocation under 675 IAC 12-5-9

Date: May 29, 2015

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety, requests that the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission (“Commission”) revoke Variance 15-05-69 pursuant to 675 IAC 12-5-9 as the variance decision of “no variance required” was made based on inaccurate information as to the building design.

Variance 15-05-69 involves the property located at 520 South 7th Avenue, Vincennes, IN and known as the Good Samaritan Hospital. Variance 15-05-69 specifically deals with access to a freight elevator located on the property. Access to the roof where the freight elevator machine room is located can only be accessed by using a ladder. ASME A17.1 – 2007, 2.7.3.2.1 provides that **“a stairway with a swinging door and platform at the top level, conforming to 2.7.3.3¹,**

¹ **2.7.3.3 Means of Access.**

The means of access to the following shall conform to 2.7.3.3.1 through 2.7.3.3.5:

(a) machine rooms, control rooms, and machinery spaces and control spaces outside the hoistway, and machinery spaces and control spaces inside the hoistway that do not have a means of access to the space as specified in 2.7.3.1.2

(b) between different floor levels in machine rooms, in control rooms, and in machinery spaces or control spaces outside the hoistway

(c) from within machine rooms or control rooms to machinery spaces and control spaces

2.7.3.3.1 A permanent, fixed, noncombustible ladder or stair shall be provided where the floor of the room or the space above or below the floor or roof from which the means of access leads, or where the distance between floor levels in the room or space, is more than 200 mm (8 in.).

2.7.3.3.2 A permanent, noncombustible stair shall be provided where the floor of the room or the space above or below the floor or roof from which the means of access leads, or where the distance between floor levels in the room or space, is 900 mm (35 in.) or more. Vertical ladders with handgrips shall be permitted to be used in lieu of stairs for access to overhead machinery spaces, except those containing controllers and motor generators.

2.7.3.3.3 Permanent, fixed, noncombustible ladders shall conform to [ANSI A14.3](#).

2.7.3.3.4 Permanent, noncombustible stairs shall have a maximum angle of 60 deg from the horizontal, and shall be equipped with a noncombustible railing conforming to 2.10.2.1, 2.10.2.2, and 2.10.2.3.

2.7.3.3.5 A permanent, noncombustible platform or floor shall be provided at the top of the stairs with noncombustible railings conforming to 2.10.2.1, 2.10.2.2, and 2.10.2.3 on each open side. In jurisdictions not enforcing the NBCC, the size of the platform shall be sufficient to permit the full swing of the door plus 600 mm (24 in.) from the top of the riser to the swing line of the door. The floor of the platform shall be at the level of not more than 200 mm (8 in.) below the level of the access-door sill.



An Equal Opportunity Employer

shall be provided from the top floor of the building to the roof level. Hatch covers, as a means of access to roofs, shall not be permitted.” I am requesting that the Commission should review its decision of “no variance required” as it would appear that a variance would be required in this instance. Currently, the freight elevator machine room can only be accessed by using a ladder which would not be compliant to the current code.

An application was submitted on April 30, 2015 and the application was given a variance number of 15-05-69. Variance 15-05-69 was heard at the May 6, 2015 Commission meeting. The application provided that 2 egress stairs are provided to from the top floor of the building. The presentation provided that freight elevator machine room was located on the penthouse level and access to the penthouse roof was not necessary to access the freight elevator machine room. It was further stated that there was nothing in the room located above the penthouse level. As provided in the photos, access to the penthouse roof **is** necessary to gain access to the freight elevator machine room. Once on the penthouse roof, access to the machine room is located across the roof in a separate room above the penthouse. The information provided in the application and meeting did not address the access to the penthouse roof. The information only addressed the access to the penthouse level. The variance as written should be revoked as the approval was based on inaccurate statements.

The Division of Fire and Building Safety requests that the Commission revoke the current decision of “no variance required” as it appears that a variance should, in fact, be required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas L. Hendricks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Thomas L. Hendricks-Chief Inspector
State of Indiana
Department of Homeland Security
Elevator/Amusements Safety Section
thendricks@dhs.in.gov
317.232.2054

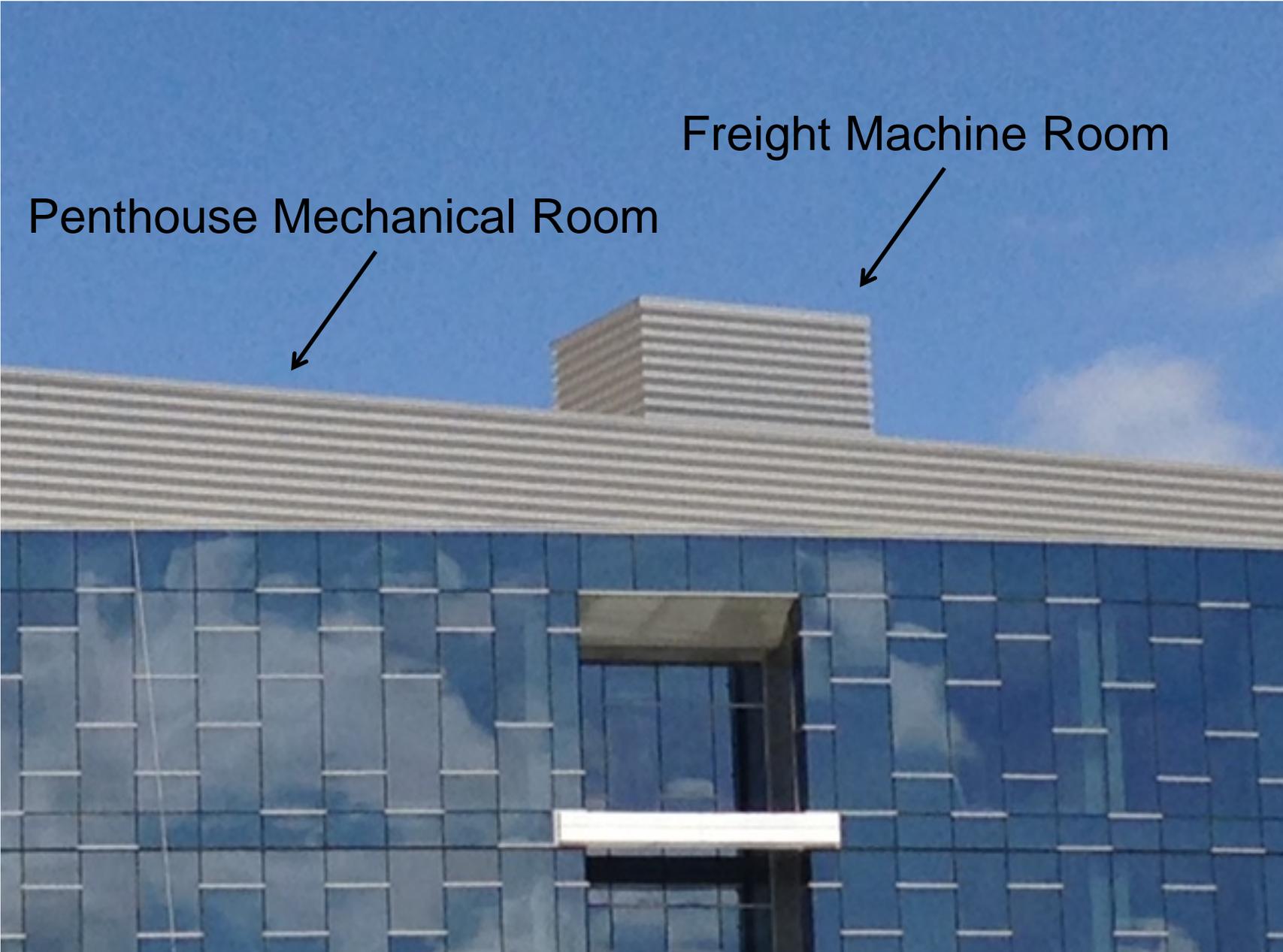
Good Samaritan Vincennes





Freight Machine Room

Penthouse Mechanical Room





1st
Floor
Freight
Door

Penthouse
Floor
Freight
Door





Hall from
Penthouse
Floor
Freight
Door

A photograph of a hallway with a door and a person in the background. The door is on the left, and the person is on the right. The hallway has a grey floor and a white wall. The ceiling is dark with some pipes and lights. The text "Door to the Control Room of Adjacent MRL" is overlaid on the image.

Door to the
Control
Room of
Adjacent
MRL



Roof
Access
Ladder



Roof
Access
Ladder

Roof Access Ladder



Roof
Access
Ladder
and
Hatch

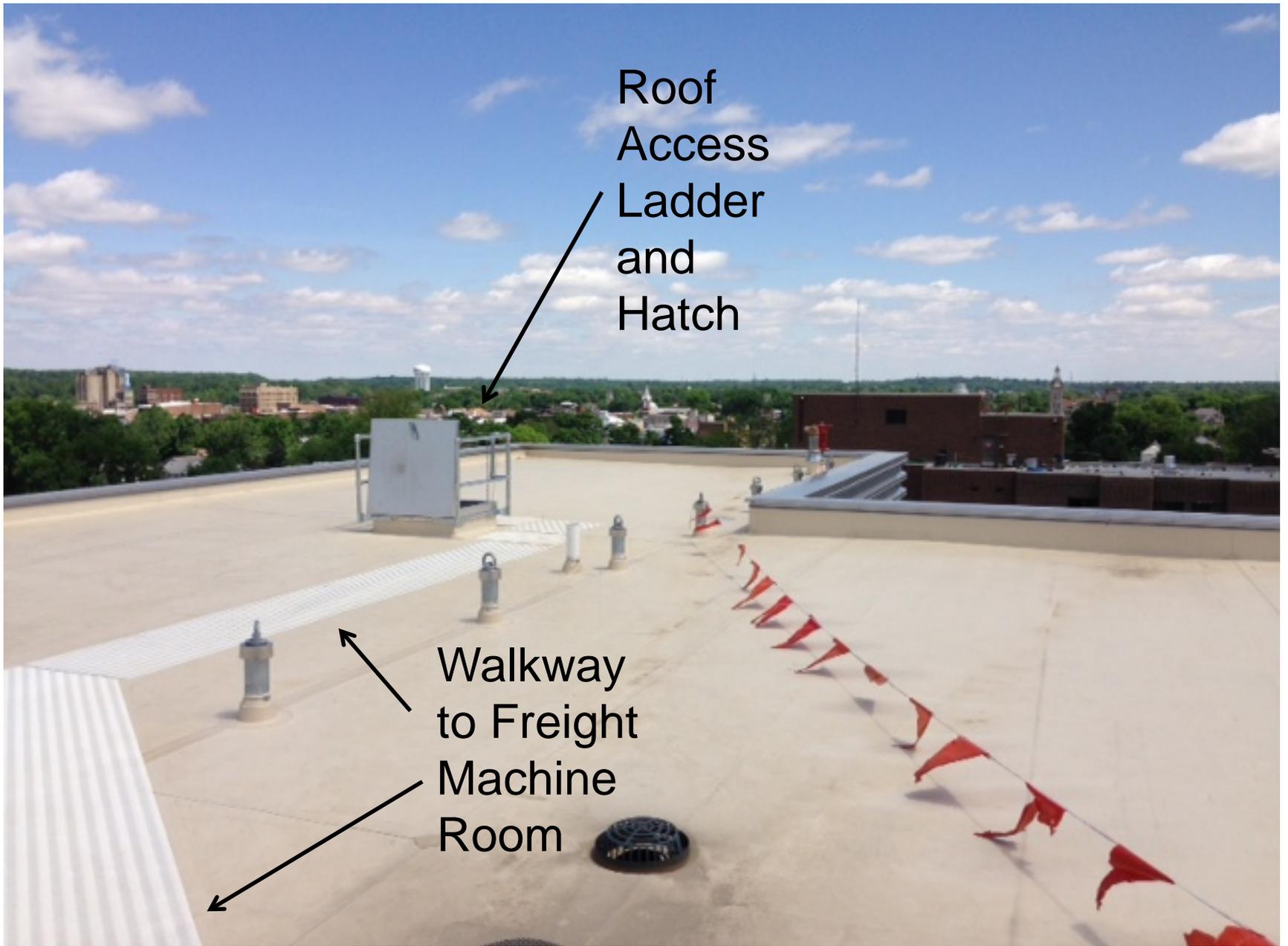


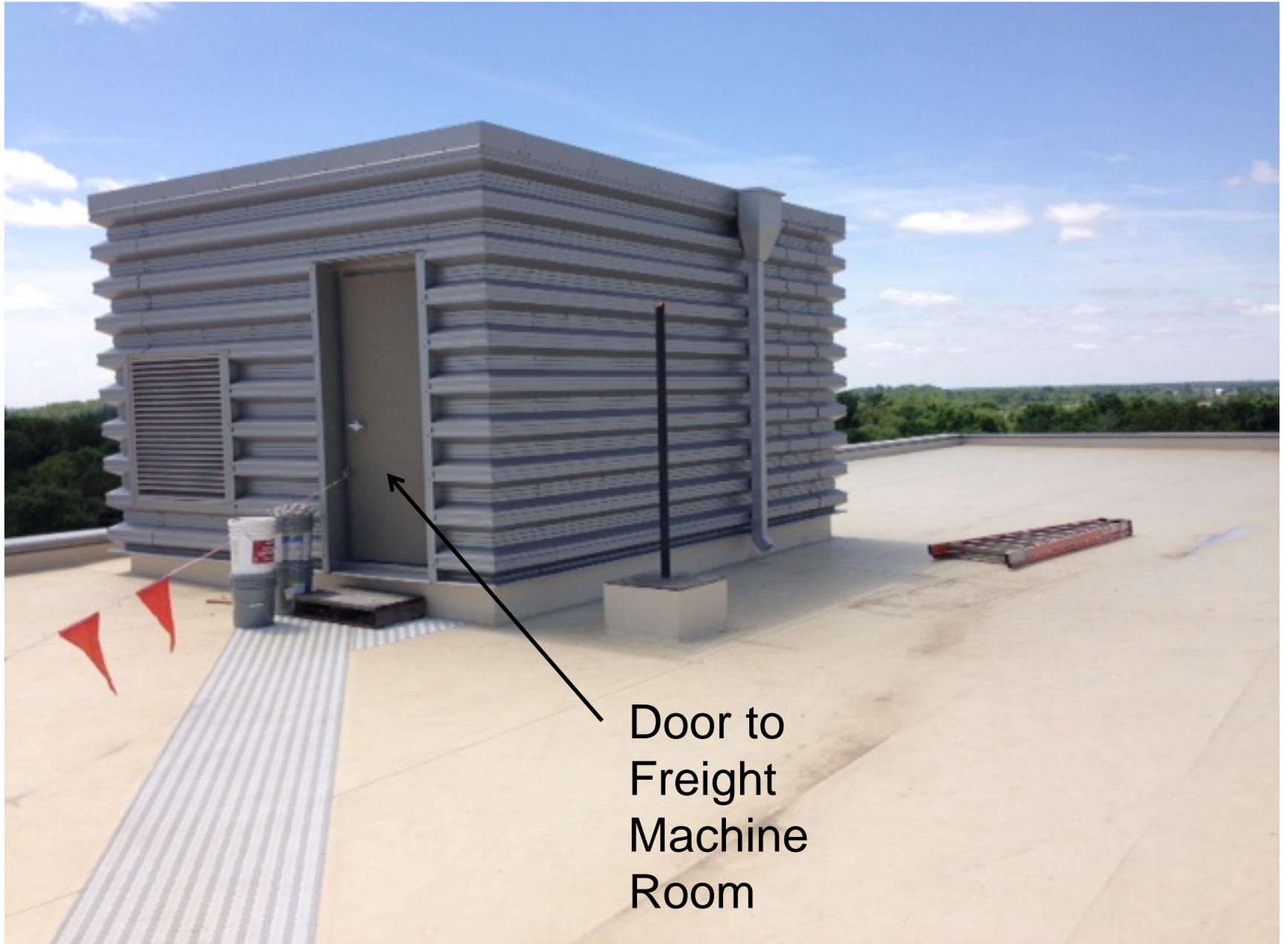


Roof
Access
Ladder
and
Hatch

Roof
Access
Ladder
and
Hatch

Walkway
to Freight
Machine
Room





Door to
Freight
Machine
Room

Elevator Controller





Brake

Motor



Elevator
Governor

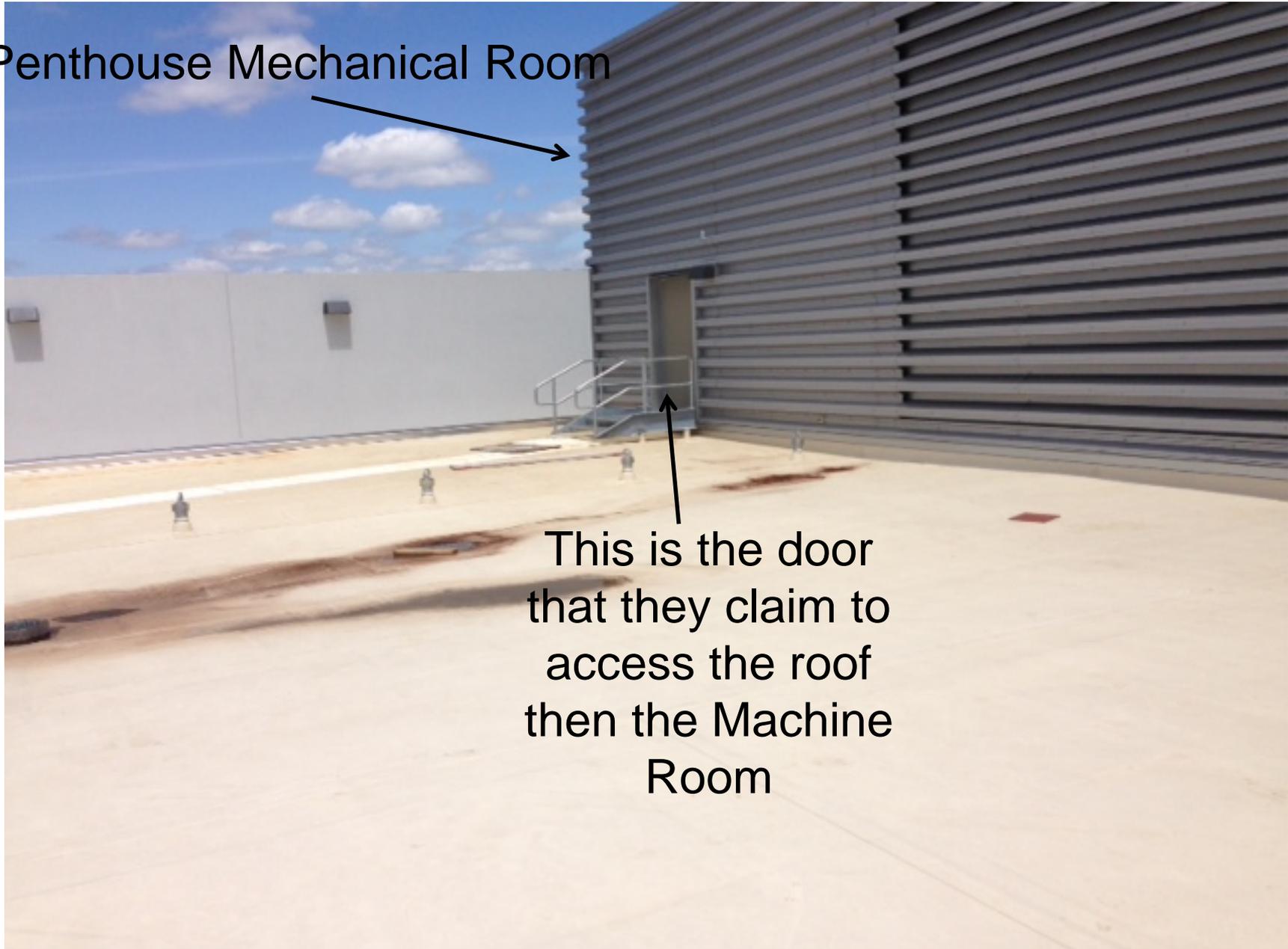
Elevator
Rope
Gripper

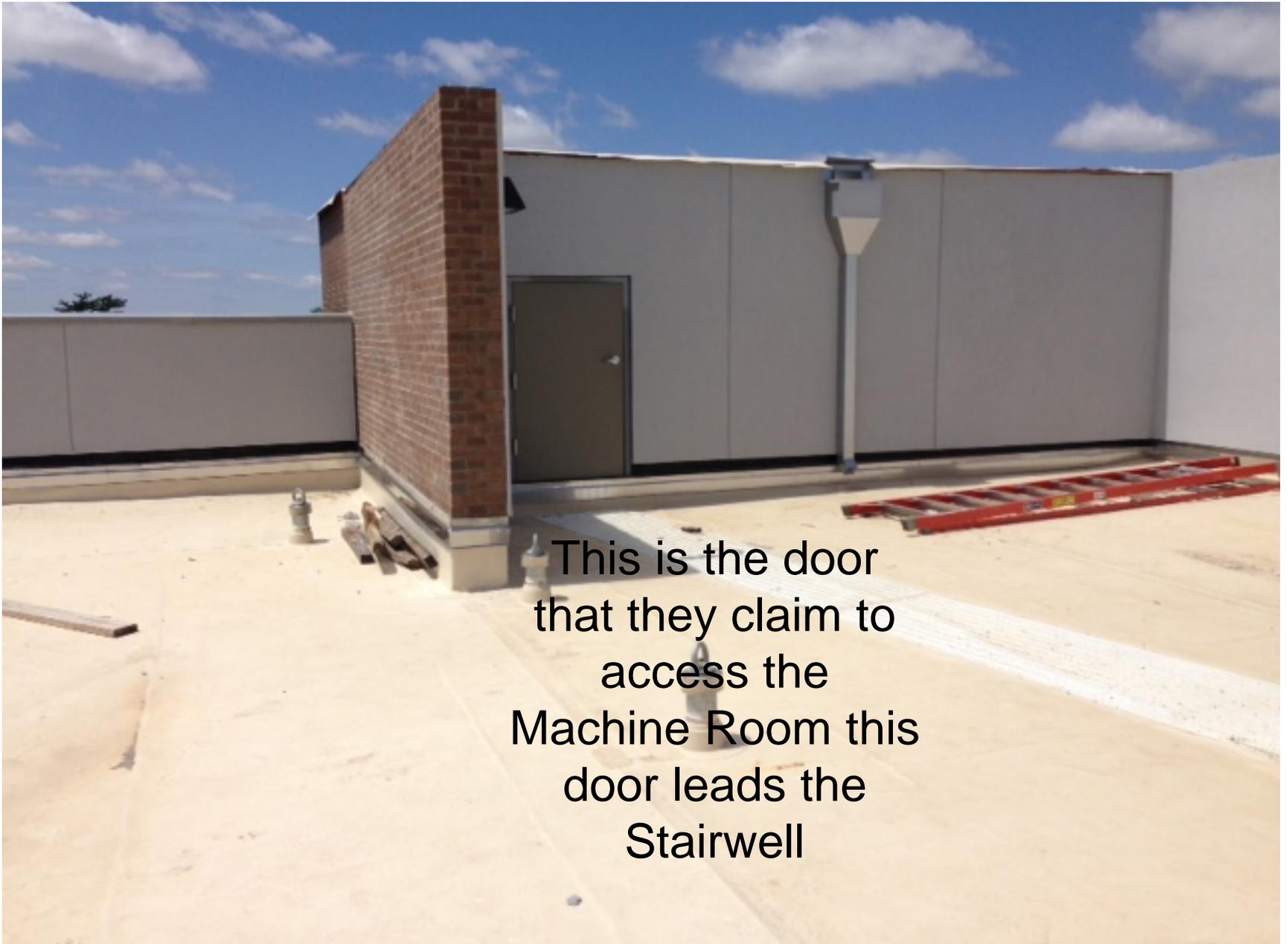


Penthouse Mechanical Room



This is the door
that they claim to
access the roof
then the Machine
Room





This is the door
that they claim to
access the
Machine Room this
door leads the
Stairwell



This the top of the
Hoistway for the
MRL

This is the Lower Roof

Freight Machine Room
from the lower roof



Freight Machine Room
from the lower roof



This the top of the
Hoistway for the
MRL



Freight Machine Room
from the lower roof

