

Industry Bulletin – Disconnecting Means for Elevators

"The Bureau confirms that all disconnecting means directly related to elevators must be provided in compliance with NFPA 70 (National Electric Code- NEC). Any disconnecting means that removes any power from a part or an operation of an elevator must be protected from the public in accordance with NEC."

This applies to all elevator units installed under ASME A17.1- 2013 and later (including all adopted codes) but is directed to all Machine Room-less (MRL) installations currently underway or those that were previously completed under these referenced codes.

Changes in language from NEC 2014 to NEC 2017, regarding 620.51, has created a problem in certain buildings with the improper locations of “intermediate” disconnecting means directly related to the elevator(s) main power source. In some instances the Bureau has observed that disconnecting means have been installed in locations that make them accessible by the public in violation of code (including but not limited to, NEC 620.71; 110.26; 110.27; 404.8; and ASME **A17.3 and** A17.5). The location and guarding of these disconnecting means has not been installed in accordance with codes. Improper installations pose significant dangers. Improper installation locations include, but are not limited to: areas accessible by the general public; elevator lobbies; above ceilings; on a floor separate from cab circuit branch disconnects; or when located with non-elevator related equipment (i.e., next to an ice machine).

This bulletin is intended to notify affected parties that any elevator that has improperly-installed disconnecting means must be remedied in accordance with code. All work must be performed by qualified electricians and should involve the services of, or coordination with, a Florida Registered Elevator Company (REC). All work should be permitted as appropriate and inspected in accordance with pertinent codes, rules, and statutes. RECs should notify an elevator owner of any improperly-installed disconnecting means that are in violation of NEC.

The Bureau requires that the local Building and Fire Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) be informed before any work is done. All work should be approved by these AHJs. Disconnecting means that are in violation of the NEC must be relocated to an electrical room or space and must be clearly identified as elevator equipment (including all A17.5 required markings). Under extreme circumstances of hardship, a code compliant cabinet (similar to that provided for in ASME A17.1- 2.7.6.3.2) may be substituted to isolate the disconnecting means from the public. Parties seeking to install a code compliant cabinet must first petition the Bureau for a variance or waiver to code. Contact your elevator service provider and visit the Bureau website at <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/elevator-safety/bes> for more information.