

524 CMR: BOARD OF ELEVATOR REGULATIONS

524 CMR 34.00: VERTICAL WHEELCHAIR LIFTS (FOR INSTALLATIONS MADE PRIOR TO JUNE 7, 1991)

Section

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34.01: Definition of Vertical Wheelchair Lift

A vertical wheelchair lift is an electrically powered elevating device used to vertically raise and lower a person in a wheelchair from one level to another.

34.02: Limitations

The installation of lifts shall be restricted as follows:

- (1) Vertical lift travel shall not exceed 12' from the bottom landing.
- (2) Vertical lifts shall not be installed to service more than two floors, and shall not penetrate a floor.
- (3) Vertical lifts may be installed adjacent to a porch, stairway, landing or at the end of a ramp or bridge, located indoors or out of doors.

34.03: Capacity and Rated Load of Vertical Wheelchair Lift

The rated load shall not be less than 500 lbs.

34.04: Rated Speed of Vertical Wheelchair Lift

The rated speed of the vertical wheelchair lift shall not exceed 20 feet per minute.

34.05: Platforms and Ramps

- (1) The platform shall measure not less than 36" wide and shall have an area of not more than 12 square feet.
- (2) The platform surface shall be constructed of material that is relatively smooth and skidproof.
- (3) A ramp shall be provided, as required for access to the platform.
- (4) A metal guard not less than 1/8" thick and six inches high shall be provided the full width of the platform to prevent a wheelchair from rolling off the lower access end of the platform when in use. The guard must be actuated automatically by movement from the landing and be raised to a minimum angle of 80°.

34.06: Supports and Mechanism Housing

- (1) The assembled unit of a device shall be supported and maintained in place so as to prevent any part from becoming loose or displaced.

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34.06: continued

- (2) Adequate support shall be provided to maintain the platform of the device in a level position at all times.
- (3) The framework shall be securely anchored in place to a foundation.
- (4) The motor, drive assembly, and all rollers and the tracks and struts they travel in must be totally enclosed by a protective covering.

34.07: Safety Factor

The frame and platform of a device shall be constructed of substantial metal capable of withstanding stresses of five times the rated load of the device. The safety factor of five shall be certified by a registered professional engineer who will affix his signature and seal to the certification.

34.08: Guarding

- (1) The platform shall be guarded at the sides not used for entrance or exit to a height of 42" of solid metal construction.
- (2) Entrance doors or gates are required for the top terminal landing. The opposite entrance on the platform shall have a car riding gate. These doors and gates shall be self-closing and self-locking and shall be equipped with an electric contact that will stop the device if the gate is opened.
 - (a) The door/gate at the bottom shall not be less than 42 inches in height.
 - (b) Maximum pressure required to open the doors or gates shall not exceed eight pounds.
 - (c) The door or gate may be opened only if the platform is within two inches of that level. If in a private residence, the top landing gate shall have a spring hinge to close the gate and a substantial locking latch.

34.09: Controls and Electrical Equipment

- (1) In accordance with 28 CFR Parts 36.4.11 and 36.4.27.4, a wheelchair lift may not be equipped with a key switch. If a wheelchair lift governed by 524 CMR 34.00 has a key switch, it shall be removed by November 1, 2011. *See* 521 CMR 28.00: *Elevators* for further access related requirements.
- (2) An upper and lower terminal stopping switch shall be provided to stop a device at the upper and lower terminal landing.
- (3) The platform shall be equipped with a pan type electrical stop switch located under the platform to stop the down travel of the platform if the platform is obstructed in its downward travel by a force not exceeding four pounds.
- (4) Platform enclosure shall be equipped with a stop switch and an alarm in public buildings.

34.10: Standards

- (1) All hand operated controls whether mounted on machine or in remote locations are to be served by a 24 volt system. Unless otherwise indicated, electrical wiring and components in the vertical wheelchair lift and its installation shall comply with 527 CMR 12.00 (The Massachusetts Electrical Code).
- (2) All welding shall be done in accordance with standard industry practices.

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34.11: Inspection and Tests

Upon completion of the work of installation or alterations, the licensed elevator mechanic making the installation or alterations shall make a practical test of the devices in the presence of a qualified licensed elevator inspector. A full report within ten days after the inspection shall be made by the inspector to the Commissioner of Public Safety on forms furnished by him. The owner or his agent in a building in which a lift is installed or altered shall arrange for an inspection with the Department of Public Safety on an annual basis in accordance with M.G.L. c. 143, § 64.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

524 CMR 34.00: M.G.L. c. 143, §§ 68, and 69; c. 22, § 11.