



The City of  
**OKLAHOMA CITY**  
Development Services  
Development Center

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Updates to Elevator Safety Standards**

**TO: Elevator Contractors, Design Professionals, and Building Owners**

**RE: Updated Elevator and Lift Safety Standards**

**Effective January 1, 2026**

**DATE: December 1, 2025**

This formal notice serves to inform you that the City of Oklahoma City has updated its adopted building codes to reference and enforce the most current elevator and lift safety standards, effective **January 1, 2026**. These updates were required under the **State of Oklahoma Elevator Safety Act** (Oklahoma Administrative Code Title 380, Chapter 70, Subchapter 7).

#### **Reason for the Update**

The Oklahoma State Department of Labor is the statewide authority responsible for adopting and enforcing elevator installation, maintenance, and safety standards. State statute requires the Department to implement the latest editions of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) safety standards. Once adopted at the state level, these standards become mandatory for all municipalities.

To remain consistent with state law and ensure regulatory clarity, Oklahoma City has amended its references within the International Building Code (IBC), International Existing Building Code (IEBC), and International Residential Code (IRC). Outdated editions from 2014–2016 have now been replaced with the current editions required by the State.

#### **Updated ASME Standards Soon to be in Effect**

As of January 1, 2026, the following standards will be referenced and enforced for all applicable work submitted or performed after this date:

- ASME A17.3-2023 – *Safety Code for Existing Elevators and Escalators*  
*Exception – Ascending car overspeed and unintended car movement protection will be deferred until January 1, 2030.*
- ASME A90.1-2023 – *Safety Standard for Belt Manlifts*

In addition, all elevator installation and alteration permits received by The City of Oklahoma City on or after July 1, 2026, must comply with the following:

- ASME A17.1-2022 – *Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators*
- ASME A18.1-2023 – *Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts*

### **Impact on Projects**

All elevator-related plan reviews, permits, installations, alterations, and inspections performed after January 1, 2026, will be evaluated using these updated statewide standards. This change ensures uniform compliance across jurisdictions, enhances life-safety protections, and eliminates conflicts between local codes and Oklahoma State Department of Labor requirements.

### **Questions or Assistance**

We recognize that these changes may impact project planning, design, and maintenance practices. Our staff is available to assist with questions regarding compliance or project evaluations.

Please contact:

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