



SAFETY BULLETIN



Safety Bulletin Number: **0000031**

Issued **November 8, 2023** by **Peter McClare, Chief Inspector, Elevators, Lifts and Amusements**
Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Escalator Safety

Legal information

Escalators need to be licensed under the [Elevators and Lifts General Regulations](#).

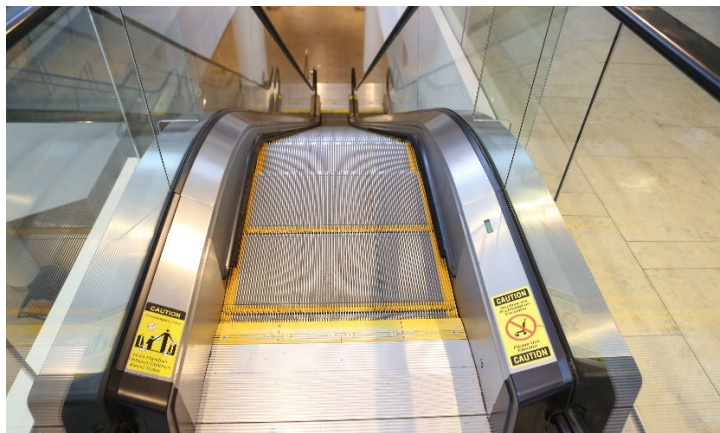
Summary

Accidents on escalators are the most frequently reported accidents on elevating equipment in Nova Scotia and often require emergency medical assistance. Injuries are highest with the elderly and the young.

Public Information:

Contributing factors for escalator incidents are:

- Navigating mobility devices (for example canes, crutches, walkers, etc.) and strollers.
- Using escalators as stairs
- Distraction (for example, using and looking at mobile devices, etc.)
- Disregarding signage (awareness of yellow lines, user signs)





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Owners of Escalator Devices are responsible for:

- Ensuring the mandatory testing adopted in 2021 is completed annually on all escalators by the elevator contractor.
- The safety of the user on escalators, and consideration should be given to the dangers of mobility devices and distracted passengers.
- Reporting all incidents on escalators / elevating devices requiring medical assistance to Safety Branch / Technical Safety Division, as required by the [Elevators and Lifts Act](#).
- Making sure out-of-service escalators are not used as stairs as this is not compliant with the Elevator Safety code.

NOTE: In 2013 the elevator safety code added a requirement that stopped escalators are not to be used as a method of access or egress by nonauthorized personnel and must be barricaded to keep the general public from using them. Escalator steps are of varying height and do not meet the tread and height requirements of the building code for standard stairs.

Contact Us

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Labour, Skills and Immigration

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