



Elevator & Lift Industry – Frequently Asked Questions

Maintenance Control Program (MCP)

1. Will NS Inspectors witness MCP category testing?

Inspectors will conduct audits of category testing however will not witness all testing in the province. Periodically contractors will be asked to provide a list of upcoming category testing where an audit of their process can be witnessed.

2. What are the maintenance frequencies for periodic inspections?

If a contractor is inspecting and testing at less than the recommended intervals outlined in the nonmandatory appendix N, the contractor will need to submit a methodology to be considered and approved by the AHJ. See General Note from Appendix N below:

Factors such as the environment, frequency of usage and type of usage, quality of maintenance, age and condition, and remote monitoring (see Table N-2) that are related to the equipment should be considered by the authority having jurisdiction prior to establishing the inspection and test intervals. It is recommended that a risk analysis, using the methodology of ISO 14798, be used to establish the intervals of inspections and tests for components and systems of the equipment. Where a risk analysis is not performed, the intervals specified in Table N-1 are recommended for periodic tests (see Section 8.6) and periodic inspections (see Section 8.11)

3. Will Category 1 or Category 5 testing need to be included in the principal maintenance agreement?

The maintenance, repair, replacement, and category 1 testing will remain within the principal maintenance agreement with the building owner.

It is allowable for category 5 testing to be included in a separate maintenance agreement with a registered elevator contractor.

4. What is are the intervals for Category 1 Testing?

The current Condition report will be updated to include the annual Category 1 testing requirements. The new condition report and electronic submission process will be communicated to stakeholders in advance of the 2022 licence renewal.

- 1) Category 1 testing will need be completed before Dec 31, 2022 on all devices.
- 2) Category 1 Testing will need to be completed for licence renewals for 2023 licence frequency.
- 3) Category 1 Testing will need to be completed in a 12-month interval (+/- 30 days) going forward.

Note: Condition Reports dated within the 12 months immediately preceding the license application

5. What is are the intervals for Category 5 Testing?

Category 5 testing will need to be completed within the period between Dec 31, 2021 and December 31, 2026.

In 2026 the Category 5 testing will be a requirement for license renewal. The elevator industry is experiencing increased work demands which could result in delays on conducting the testing, therefore is strongly advisable that Category 5 testing be discussed and scheduled with your service provider now to alleviate any impacts on your 2026 license renewals.

If your device has been commissioned after December 31, 2021 (new installations and major alterations) the Category 5 testing will need to be conducted on a 5-year cycle from the date of commissioning.

6. How much time will industry be provided to implement the MCP prior to full enforcement?

Time will be given for contractors to become familiar and implement the MCP program. Enforcement activities will not commence before December 31st, 2022 allowing one year.

7. Will alternative testing without load be allowable? What alternative testing methods are approved by the AHJ?

Alternative testing method tools need to be identified and information provided to the AHJ for review and approval prior to use. Alternative testing methods and tools will be allowed in accordance with section 8.6.11.10 of the ASME 17.1 / CSA B44:19 Safety Code.

8. Will brake seals be required?

All test tags and seals required by 8.6 and references are required to be in place following testing.

9. Will escalator skirt deflector devices be required as per the ASME 17.1 / CSA B44 :19 section 8.6.8.3?

Skirt deflector devices shall be installed if they are needed to comply with the safety code. The category 1 testing will require the maintenance provider to perform a step/skirt performance index test. The test will confirm compliance to indexing results as per 6.1.3.3.9 c) of the safety code. All escalators must be compliant with the step/skirt performance test prior to the submission of the 2023 condition report.

10. Will testing need be required to follow 8.6.4.20.4?

Testing shall be in accordance with Section 8.6. Nova Scotia Technical Safety will allow the use of alternative testing methods.

11. At what frequency should records be kept of oil usage?

As oil is integral to hydraulic systems, visual checks of system capacity and containment systems should be conducted during every maintenance visit. The record for oil loss usage and all conditions in 8.6.5.7 shall be updated as required and no less than a 6-month interval.

12. Are driving machine brakes to be dismantled and cleaned or maintained?

The driving machine brakes shall be maintained to ensure proper operation. Maintenance must occur according to manufacturer's specifications, and it is the responsibility of service providers to put into place a process following the definition of maintenance in the elevators and lifts regulations as stated below to ensure proper brake operation. Proper consideration must be given to areas of the braking system which cannot be visually inspected.

In the *Nova Scotia Elevators and Lifts General Regulations* defines the following: "maintenance" means regularly scheduled work or other action taken to ensure that an elevating device is and will remain in safe operating condition.

13. Can fire emergency operation phase 1 be simulated at the elevator control

Except during acceptance testing, it is allowable for fire emergency operation phase 1 to be simulated at the elevator controls rather than triggering the building FAIDs (Fire Alarm Initiating Device). All other components such as, the three-position key switch at the designated landing and the two-position switch at the building fire control station are required to be tested by activating the switch.

Note: The simulation of fire initiating devices does not replace testing requirements within the National Fire Code, CAN/ULC S536 "Standard for Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems" and CAN/ULC S1001 "Standard for Integrated Systems Testing of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems".

14. Can Emergency Power tests be simulated?

No, Elevator emergency power testing shall follow ASME A17.2 2020 item 1.17.2.1

CSA B355 – 2019 Code Adoption

1. Will private residence inspections be performed to the CSA B355:19

Should a homeowner request an inspection on the device it will be carried out in accordance with the CSA B355:19. See the following excerpt from Section 3 of the Act.

3 This Act does not apply to:

(a) elevating devices in private dwelling houses, unless the owner of the device requests that this Act be applied to it;

ASME A17.1-2019/CSA B44-19

1. What is the new requirement for sump pumps in the ASME A17.1/CSA B44:19 code?

2.2.2.5 In elevators provided with Firefighters' Emergency Operation, a drain or sump pump shall be provided. The sump pump/drain shall be required to remove a minimum of 11.4 m³ /h (3,000 gal/h) per single hoistway or multiple hoistway

2. Is the Non-mandatory Appendix E enforceable in Nova Scotia?

All new elevators installed or existing elevators subject to major alterations where appendix E requirements apply, must follow appendix E. These requirements are enforced through the Provincial Building Code.