

Required Elevator Periodic Safety Tests

ITS 26-006

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Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information respecting periodic safety testing requirements for elevating devices under CSA B44-2019 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, as adopted by the Technical Safety Regulation.

The Technical Safety Act and Regulation will come into force September 1, 2026. CSA B44 code, section 8.6, has provisions for required safety testing intervals called Category 1 (CAT1), Category 3 (CAT3) and Category 5 (CAT5). These tests are done at prescribed intervals to ensure safe operation of elevating devices.

What type of Elevating devices does this apply to?

This testing applies to all elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, moving walks, and material lifts.

Staggered Safety Testing Rollout

To support industry compliance with CSA B44-2019 code, Inspection and Technical Services (ITS) is implementing a phased rollout of CAT5 safety testing requirements. Elevators installed on or before August 31, 2021, are considered due for CAT5 testing in accordance with the code, if they have not been subjected to periodic safety testing. ITS strongly encourages owners to begin scheduling CAT5 tests as early as possible and will be enforcing the following due dates:

- Elevators installed or altered before 2010: Schedule CAT5 testing by December 31, 2027
- Elevators installed or altered between 2010-2015: Schedule CAT5 testing by December 31, 2028
- Elevators installed or altered between 2016-2021: Schedule CAT5 testing by December 31, 2030

Note: Elevators with documented testing completed in accordance with section 8.11.1.1.2 prior to issuance of this bulletin may continue to follow their existing testing schedule.

When is the next Safety Test due?

All safety tests are due by the end of the calendar year.

- CAT1-annually
- CAT3-every 3 years
- CAT5-every 5 years

If the required safety tests are not completed within the specified timelines, an Inspector may issue corrective actions. This may result in a delay renewing the operating permit, the device being shut down and sealed out of service, or an administrative penalty under the Technical Safety Act and Regulation.

Testing and Reporting

All testing shall be recorded within the logbook, and applicable testing tags attached to the tested equipment. Test reports must be prepared in accordance with Section 8.11.1.1.2 and must include:

- Date of test(s);
- Type of test(s) performed;
- Detailed results of the test(s) including, but not limited to, speed, governor trip speed, safety slide distance, relief-valve setting, escalator/moving walk brake torque setting, etc.;
- Code deficiencies noted during the test;
- Statement as to any corrective action taken;

Test Tags:

All tags must be stamped, engraved or embossed using a ballpoint pen and permanently attached to the controller, governors, and buffers. Use of permanent marker or paint pens is not allowed. See Section 8.13 Signs, Plates and Tags of CSA B44 for more information.

Failed Tests

If a component fails a safety test, the elevator must be removed from service until the safety component has been repaired or replaced. Failures must be documented and recorded in the logbook, including the test that failed and confirmation that the device was placed out of service.

Who can conduct the Periodic Safety Tests?

In accordance with section 8.11.1.1.2 of CSA B44, periodic safety tests may only be conducted by an elevator contractor authorized by ITS.

To obtain authorization, an elevator contractor must demonstrate to ITS that it has:

- the equipment required to conduct the applicable safety tests;
- documented testing procedures; and

Elevator Mechanic Class A licence holders (or Elevator M-A licence holders during the transition period ending September 1, 2031) who have received training on the applicable testing procedures and equipment.

How to Apply-Authorization for Periodic Safety Testing

Contractors must apply for periodic safety testing authorization by submitting a request to ITSEDintake@gov.mb.ca with the following supporting documentation:

- Procedural Manual on Category testing,
- Training records demonetrising that the Elevator Mechanic Class A licence holders are qualified to conduct the testing,
- Calibration records for all testing equipment, and
- Alternative testing method documentation as applicable (see below for more information).

Once the submission has been reviewed, ITS will advise the contractor whether they may proceed with scheduling a demonstration. Demonstrations must be scheduled through ITSEDintake@gov.mb.ca.

An ITS Elevator Inspector will witness demonstrations of each type of periodic safety test for which authorization is being sought.

Following a successful demonstration, ITS will issue a letter of authorization to the elevator contractor for a term not exceeding five years.

During the authorization period, ITS may conduct audits of the contractor's testing program and documentation to ensure compliance with the code and the terms of the authorization.

Alternative Testing Methods

Alternative testing methods are permitted in accordance with Section 8.6.11.10 of the CSA B44.

Alternative testing methods require the baseline acceptance inspection data. Where baseline acceptance inspection the data isn't available, the testing must be completed with required loads specified within the code.

Subsequent CAT5 testing may be conducted using alternative testing methods and the baseline data established through the previous test.

Elevator contractors wishing to use alternative testing methods must include the following additional documentation with their authorization request:

- company written procedure/manual in accordance with Section 8.6.11.10.3,
- training records for the specialized equipment, certificate of conformance to A17.7/B44.7 for the equipment; and
- calibration certificate for the equipment.

Following a successful demonstration, ITS will include authorization to conduct alternative testing methods within the scope of the contractor's letter of authorization.

For more information:

If you have any questions, please contact us at, 204-945-3373 or ITSEDintake@gov.mb.ca