

Date: 9/16/2025

From: Mike McAlister, Industrial Safety Division Chief

To: All elevator owners, contractors, mechanics, and inspectors

Cc: Industrial Safety Division, Kansas Department of Labor
Division of Facilities and Property Management, Kansas Department of Administration
Local 12, International Union of Elevator Constructors

RE: Elevators — Statutory restrictions on elevator mechanics inspecting their own or subordinate's work

Synopsis: A licensed mechanic who has conducted or directed repairs or modifications to an elevator, or any employee working under that licensed mechanic's direction, may not conduct a subsequent inspection for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of elevator operation.

Cited herein: K.S.A. 44-1805, 44-1815

Dear Elevator Contractors and Mechanics,

In 2024, the legislature made several changes to the Kansas Elevator Safety Act (K.S.A. § 44-1801 Et al.) in response to complaints from elevator owners. One of those changes authorized licensed mechanics to conduct periodic safety inspections of elevators required for a certificate of operation to be issued by the Kansas State Fire Marshal. Prior to the 2024 amendments, these inspections could only be performed by licensed elevator inspectors.

As amended in 2024, K.S.A. § 44-1805(b) reads, "*No licensed elevator mechanic or employee of such a licensee shall inspect work that was performed on an elevator by that individual.*" When legislators considered this bill in committee, a concern was raised about a hypothetical situation where a mechanic or the mechanic's employee could be tasked with inspecting safety sensitive work on an elevator that they performed. The legislators believed, for safety purposes, that the inspection should be conducted by another licensed mechanic or inspector who had not worked on the elevator.

Since this law was passed, our office has received questions from the elevator industry regarding how it should be implemented. Based on the statutory language and the legislative intent of the amendment, we provide the following guidance to elevator mechanics and their employees:

- 1) If a licensed mechanic or their employee conducts any work on an elevator that individual may not conduct the subsequent safety inspection required for a certificate of elevator operation.
- 2) The licensed mechanic or inspector who conducts the subsequent certification inspection may be employed by the same business as the individual who worked on the elevator (but may not be a subordinate of the mechanic who performed the work).

For this purpose, The Kansas State Fire Marshal has defined “work” as repairing (bringing a malfunctioning or damaged component of the elevator back into its original state or functionality) or upgrading an existing elevator's mechanical and electrical components to improve its performance, safety, and reliability. The definition of “work” for the purpose of K.S.A. § 44-1805(b) does not include scheduled preventative maintenance measures, such as cleaning, lubrication, or routine adjustments to existing elevator components.

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