



Office of the State Fire Marshal

Variance Statement.

Kansas Variance to ASME A17.1-2019 Section 2.27.1 Emergency Operation & Signaling Devices. Hearing impaired requirements for existing elevator installations and modernizations.

Code requirements for Visual / Text communication within the elevator and authorized personnel will not be enforced until further notice.

Enforcement of this code will resume at some future point after further review and industry input. ADA Telephones compliant with A17.1-2016 and earlier codes will continue to be accepted as satisfactory.

The reasoning for this is that while the premise for visual / text communication is an improvement over the existing audio communication the technology is not developed to the point that installations are cost effective and reliable. The installations take an excessive amount of time to install and troubleshoot often requiring multiple trips for technicians and inspectors. Many installations require callback trouble calls within 6 months. Few are fully operational at the first annual inspection.

This particular code item has been the focus of discontent from introduction due to cost and reliability. Including the Variance statement as part of the Elevator Safety Act will placate the harshest critics allowing the department time to concentrate on the overdue maintenance issues involving the states elevators. Oklahoma and Missouri have issued similar statements to this effect.

Variance Statement– This will be the only blanket approval that will be given to the industry for new installations. Emergency Operation & Signaling Devices

*Any existing elevators – requesting this variance must submit documentation for approval.

Which means they go through the normal variance process.

*The board asked this Variance to be reviewed “Annually” to assure it is still relevant.

*Must be posted for all the public to see.

***12/10/2025 Meeting of the Elevator Advisory Board - Voted to extend the variance**