

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 10th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3677



ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
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San Francisco, CA 941142-0603

March 11, 2002

Mr. Steven L. Rank  
DCIW/CIEC Safety Institute  
P.O. Box 2035  
Rocklin, CA 95677

Subject: Construction Access and Egress  
Construction Safety Orders 1629 and 1630

Dear Mr. Rank:

The construction access egress regulations you have referred to in March 4, 2002 letter are Title 8, California Code of Regulations Sections 1629(a)(4) and 1630(a). Your questions involve the number of stairways required and when is an elevator required in a multistory building.

The requirements for stairways and ladders for access and egress in multistory buildings exceeding 3 floors or 36 feet in height are found in Section 1629(a)(4) as follows:

"A minimum of 1 stairway shall be provided for access and exit for buildings and structures to 3 stories or 36 feet; if more than 3 stories or 36 feet, 2 or more stairways shall be provided. Where 2 stairways are provided and work is being performed in the stairways, 1 shall be maintained clear for access between levels at all times."

You are correct in that two stairways are required in addition to construction passenger elevator required by Section 1630(a). The temporary or permanent access stairways for the construction of multistory buildings and structures over 24 feet in height shall meet the specifications of Section 1629(a)(2) and Appendix Plate B-17 of the Construction Safety Orders.

For access in all buildings, described in Section 1629(b), 2 or more stories, 24 feet or more in height, Section 1629 requires temporary or permanent stairways 24 inches in width, with handrails, treads, 30-inch landings, and a slope between 30 and 50 degrees. Prefabricated tower scaffold stairways generally do not meet the stairway specifications of Section 1629 and Plate B-17. Prefabricated metal scaffold stairways may be used for access to scaffolds and falsework because tower scaffold stairways do not have to meet the 24-inch width and other requirements contained in Section 1629(a)(2) for temporary or permanent stairways.

The requirements for elevators for hoisting workers in buildings 60 feet or more in height above or 48 feet in depth below ground level are found in Sections 1630(a) and 1630(d) as follows:

1630(a). "In addition to the stairways required in Section 1629, a construction passenger elevator for hoisting workers shall be installed and in operation on or in any building, or structure, 60 feet or more in height above or 48 feet in depth below ground level."

1630(d). "Landings shall be provided for the passenger elevator on or in buildings or structures at the upper-most floor and at intervals not to exceed 3 floors or 36 feet."

The Occupational Safety and Health Appeals Board has determined in Rudolph & Sletten, Inc., Docket No. 93-R1D5-1251 by Decision After Reconsideration that construction passenger elevator must be installed at not more than the 36-foot level when the building will exceed 60 feet in height. A copy of the referenced Decision After Reconsideration is attached for your information.

If you have additional questions related to this subject please contact me at 415-703-5163.

Sincerely,



Larry McCune, PE  
Principal Safety Engineer  
DOSH Research and Standards Unit

Attachment

Cc: Senior Safety Staff  
File: 1630