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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**

MEMORANDUM 016

AUXILIARY POWER LOWERING OPERATION

Date: April 28, 2023

To: Elevator Inspectors, Elevator Mechanics, Elevator Companies, and Elevator Contractors

From: Deputy Chief Gus Guadamuz

Re: Emergency Lowering Operation

A17.1 -2016 Section 3.26.10, where the auxiliary power lowering operation is provided solely to lower the car, in the case of main power supply failure, the auxiliary lowering operation shall conform to 3.26.10.1 through 3.26.10.3.

The elevator safety board reviewed the status of auxiliary power lowering operation inspections, and the action taken by some elevator contractors removing the auxiliary power operation, in lieu of maintaining and repairing the equipment without approval of the department.

On December 22, 2022, the Elevator Safety Board approved a resolution that a failure of auxiliary power lowering operation found during a periodic inspection is to be a re-inspect violation that requires correction, and where provided, removing existing auxiliary power-lowering operation from existing installations will not be allowed.

Any elevator company that removes auxiliary power lowering operation, without prior approval, from existing installations will be contacted and informed of the violation and the consequences. Upon discovery of the removal of emergency lowering operation, the following steps will be taken:

- The elevator is to be inspected and a re-inspect violation is to be filed.
- The contractor who removed the equipment without a permit and approval of the department will be suspended from obtaining further alteration permits until the matter is reviewed and resolved by the Elevator Safety Board

Auxiliary power lowering operation is considered a life safety item. It is designed to protect the general public from entrapments during a power failure. The control systems that provide this operation require proper maintenance and ongoing testing to ensure it operates when needed. Any alteration to an elevator control systems requires an alteration permit..