
BBS MEMO

Ohio Board of Building Standards

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6606 Tussing Road, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

What's a LULA?

LULA is an abbreviation for "Limited Use Limited Application," it is an elevator that is limited in capacity, limited in speed, limited in rise, and limited in platform size. A LULA elevator is defined in ASME A17.1b as "... a power passenger elevator where the use and application is limited in size, capacity, speed, and rise, intended principally to provide vertical transportation for people with physical disabilities."

The Ohio Elevator Division, Hank Arnold, Chief Inspector, is responsible for the inspection of these types of elevators. They differ from wheelchair lifts in that they are permitted to penetrate a floor and are required to meet a much more stringent code. These devices are elevators, and the applicable requirements of OBBC Chapter 30, "Elevators," apply. Both wheelchair lifts and LULA elevators are prohibited from transporting freight.

LULA elevators were added to the ASME A17.1 elevator code on August 1, 1996. They are addressed in Part XXV of the 1995 edition of that code, which can be obtained by contacting ASME at 1-800-THE-ASME.

As with all elevators, LULA elevators must comply with ADAAG requirements. ADAAG Section 4.10.9, "Floor Plan of Elevator Cars," requires the "... floor area of elevator cars shall provide space for wheelchair users to enter the car, maneuver within reach of controls, and exit from the car." Figure 22 of the ADAAG shows examples of acceptable elevator configurations, and indicates in the example figure that the smallest dimensions are 51" x 68" (24 square feet) inside the car. LULA elevators, at 18 square feet maximum permitted area, are smaller than the examples in the ADAAG.

Because LULA elevators meet the performance requirements of ADAAG section 4.10.9, in that their design is specifically for use by the handicapped, they comply with ADAAG requirements. Building officials need not send LULA elevators to an appeals board for failure to comply with this provision of the ADAAG.