

ELEVATOR DEVICE Q&A

# Overspeed Valve Device

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**Q: What is an overspeed valve?**

**A:** An overspeed valve (rupture valve, earthquake valve) is a device that is installed in the hydraulic line of an elevator that will close off the flow of oil in case of a hydraulic line breakage. This type of valve is required when the elevator is installed in a seismic risk zone (earthquake zone).

**Q: Why am I being told that the “overspeed valve shall be tested” and why wasn’t this tested before?**

**A:** The overspeed valve is required to be tested every 5 years with the adoption of the A17.1 2016 code that went into effect May 1st, 2020. The overspeed valve was initially tested at the time of installation and up until May 1st it was not required to be tested after its installation. After performing your annual inspection, the certified elevator inspector determined that you have an overspeed valve installed and that he/she could not verify that the overspeed valve was tested in the last 60 months (5 years).

**Q: When will testing on an “overspeed valve” be required?**

**A:** Rated load testing of overspeed valve will begin on January 1, 2021 and shall be required at intervals of 60 months. The year and month the test will be determined by a 60-month incremental calculation from the initial registered installation date. Installations may be tested with scheduled full load testing of electric elevators if they are in the same location subject to approval of the Deputy Chief Elevator Inspector of Missouri. All Testing reports on overspeed valves will be submitted to the State of Missouri.

**Q: What will testing the overspeed valve entail?**

**A:** To test the overspeed valve the rated load of the elevator will have to be loaded and the elevator tested with its full load. Certified weight carts will be used for this testing and the elevator maintenance provider will need a wheeled access to an elevator landing to load the weight carts. This will cause more of an inconvenience for your facility with the amount of time it takes to perform the test and the amount of noise from loading the certified weights. As you can imagine, this test requires more time to perform and you may see an increase on your inspection fee from the elevator maintenance provider/inspection company.

**Q: Do all my elevators at my facility have an overspeed valve and how am I able to determine which ones have an overspeed valve?**

**A:** Unfortunately, there is no accurate “list” of elevators currently. There are several factors that cannot be fully determined until a survey is performed by your maintenance provider/elevator inspection company.

**Q: Once the test is completed, how will we know when it will be required again?**

**A:** The test results will be logged into the state website and the overspeed valve will be tagged and sealed with the date of test. Your elevator certificate should also have the date the test was performed under the “Last 5 Year Annual Inspection Date”.