



ASSE Tech Brief

November 10, 2011



ELEVATOR SAFETY: AN UPDATE **THE ANSI/ASSE A10.4 STANDARD & THE QEI** **(Qualified Elevator Inspector) Credential**

The standard, [“Safety Requirements for Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators” \(ANSI/ASSE A10.4-2007\)](#), applies to the design, construction, installation, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alterations and repair of hoists and elevators that 1) are not an integral part of buildings, 2) are installed inside or outside buildings or structures during construction, alteration, demolition or operations and (3) are used to raise and lower workers and other personnel connected with or related to the structure. These personnel hoists and employee elevators may also be used for transporting materials under specific circumstances defined in this standard.

Past versions of the A10.4 standard include:

Originally approved: 1963
Revised: 1973
Revised: 1981
Revised: 1990
Reaffirmed: 1997
Revised: 2004
Current: 2007

The A10.4 subgroup is currently revising the standard with the hope of releasing a public review draft sometime during Calendar Year 2012. Garry Kosinski of the Elevator Industry Preservation Fund is the current A10.4 subgroup chair.

SH&E professionals have asked about the A10.4 standard since the ASME Qualified Elevator Inspector (QEI)-1 Standard now lists personnel hoists under “covered inspections” and requires each QEI inspector and inspection supervisors to maintain a copy of the current edition of the A10.4. This is important for all SH&E professionals with responsibilities in construction and demolition operations since the QEI credential is viewed as the top credential for elevator inspectors.

QEI examinations are given by testing bodies accredited by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The exam’s purpose is to certify elevator inspectors wishing to obtain a credential that attests to their expertise in the elevator industry. Click [here](#) to view currently accredited

programs. Click [here](#) to view sample examination study materials showing that the A10.4 standard is now a required publication for the examination's purposes.

ASME QEI-1 Standard Scope

QEI-1 is intended for the purpose of establishing uniform criteria, which will aid in: a) qualifying and training of inspection personnel for government agencies, insurance companies, elevator companies, building owners and managers and b) the accreditation of inspection agencies. It is also intended to serve as a guideline on which certification is based by detailing the expertise necessary in performing inspections. It is recommended that state, municipal and other jurisdictional authorities reference this standard in their governing regulations covering subjects included in this standard.”

A10.4 Citations in ASME QEI-1

Section 1.1.4 “Covered Inspections” notes that the document applies to any person making an inspection with the intent of document compliance with the following standards: ASME A17.1/CSA B44, ASME A17.3, CSA-B44.1/ASME A17.5, ASME A18.1 or CSA B355 and ANSI/ASSE A10.4 or CSA Z185.

Section 1.5 addresses the documents a certified elevator inspector and a certified elevator inspector supervisor are required to have in their personal possession for the purposes of a covered inspection. These documents currently are:

- a) ASME A17.1/CSA B44, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators
- b) ASME A17.2, Guide for Inspection of Elevators, Escalators and Moving Walks
- c) ANSI/NFPA 70, National Electrical Code or Canadian Electrical Code C22.1
- d) ASME A17.3, Safety Code for Existing Elevators and Escalators
- e) ASME A18.1, Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts, or CSA B355, Lifts for Persons with Physical Disabilities
- f) ANSI/ASSE A10.4, Safety Requirements for Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators, or CSA Z185, Safety Code for Personnel Hoists
- g) Elevator Industry Field Employees' Safety Handbook

- [QEI-1-2010](#)
- [QEI Standards Committee](#)

A10.4 Links & Information

[Official Memorandum of Understanding Between OSHA & ANSI](#)

[May 8, 1978 OSHA Letter of Interpretation](#)

[March 27, 2006 OSHA Letter of Interpretation](#)

[OSHA Recognition of A10.4 in 1926.552©\(16\)](#)

[OSHA Use of A10.4 as a Guidance Document in the Construction Directorate](#)

[U.S. Coast Guard Recognition of A10.4](#)

[Recognition of A10.4 in California Code of Regulations](#)

[Recognition of A10.4 in New York City Building Code](#)

[Recognition of A10.4 by State of Michigan](#)

Articles

[Safeguarding: Are ANSI Standards Really Voluntary?](#)

[ASSE Position Statement on Consensus Standards](#)

[What's the Difference Between an OSHA Rule and an ANSI Standard?](#)

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A10.4 Scope

This standard applies to the design, construction, installation, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alterations and repair of hoists and elevators that 1) are not an integral part of buildings, 2) are installed inside or outside buildings or structures during construction, alteration, demolition or operations and 3) are used to raise and lower workers and other personnel connected with or related to the structure. These personnel hoists and employee elevators may also be used for transporting materials under specific circumstances defined in this standard.

This standard does not apply to the following:

- 1) Permanent elevators that are temporarily installed in the hoistways during the construction of buildings, and which incorporate a part of the permanent elevator that will be installed later.
- 2) Hoists for raising and lowering materials that have no provision for carrying personnel.
- 3) Manlifts of the counter-balanced and endless-belt types.
- 4) Mine hoists.
- 5) Wire-rope-guided or non-guided hoists.

A10.4 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to set forth minimum requirements intended to provide for the safety of life, limb and property of those engaged in occupations requiring the use of personnel

hoists or employee elevators. The requirements of this standard are the minimum for that purpose.

A10.4 Exceptions

In cases of practical difficulties, unnecessary hardships or new developments, the enforcing authority may grant exceptions to literal requirements of this standard. These exceptions may permit use of other devices or methods, but only when it is clearly indicated that equivalent safety and permanent installation are thereby secured.