

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
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June 29, 2015

Mr. Tom Davies, Corporate Safety Manager
The Herrick Corporation
2000 Crow Canyon Place, Suite 360
San Ramon, CA 94583

Re: Title 8 Section 1630 Elevators for Hoisting Workers and Construction Access

Dear Mr. Davies:

This letter is provided in response to your inquiry to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) regarding the requirements for installation of construction passenger elevators (CPE) and the primary construction entrance of a building. The content and conclusions of this letter are based only on the facts described below and responsive only to the initial requester. They may not be construed as a statement of general Division policy or general interpretation of the regulations referenced in this letter.

Question 1:

Where does the primary construction entrance have to be located in relationship to the building:

Response to Question 1:

California Code of Regulations Title 8 does not specify the location in relationship to the building where the primary entrance must be located. However, Title 8 does define the ground level as the primary construction entrance in section 1630 (see below). As a result, Cal/OSHA has determined that the primary entrance must be at the floor slab or ground level.

Question 2:

What percentage of the work force on the site, have to use the primary construction entrance to meet the requirements for a primary construction site.

Response to Question 2:

Although primary construction entrance is not defined in the Title 8 California Code of Regulations, Cal/OSHA considers the primary construction entrance as the most commonly used entrance for equipment, materials and employees into the building. Cal/OSHA does not attempt to determine the specific percentages of the workforce that enter into the buildings at different

entrances. In this situation where a building is constructed on sloped ground, the entrance may be relocated at different elevations as the building progresses.

Question 3:

We are finding that General Contractors will move the primary entrance to the building so a CPE does not have to be installed or is delayed. I have attached some slides from a project for your review. The excavation is over 48 feet in depth on one end of the excavation and under 48 feet in depth at the other end because of the cut of the excavation. The General Contractor place the stair tower at the shallow end under 48 feet and calls it the primary construction entranc so no CPE is required for the sub-grade floors. The steel structure inside the excavation is now above 3 floors and 36 feet. We are no longer are working at the grade level of the excavation and the building inside the excavation is now over 48 feet in height. Your San Francisco office approved this early on. However, I would like to know for future reference how a primary construction [entrance] is defined by Cal/OSHA.

Response to Question 3:

A CPE is required for structures under construction in accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 8 section 1630 which states:

§1630. Elevators for Hoisting Workers.

(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. The building or structure height shall be determined by measuring from ground level to the highest structural level including the parapet walls, mechanical rooms, stair towers and elevator penthouse structures but excluding antennas, smokestacks, flag poles and other similar attachments.

The building or structure depth shall be determined by measuring from ground level to the lowest floor level excluding local depression such as sumps and elevator pits.

Ground level, for the purposes of this section, is defined as the level of the primary construction entrance to the building or structure.

* * * * *

The condition you describe is a steel structure that is erected within an excavation having a depth between 32 and 57 feet. The General Contractor has established a stairway access at the shallow end of the excavation where the depth is less than 48 feet. Provided that this access point is where the majority of personnel, materials and equipment enter the site, then the condition meets the minimum access requirements for the excavation and foundation work and no CPE is required into the excavation.

Ironworkers use the access stairway from ground level to the shallow end of the excavation and then walk to the deep end of the excavation and foundation work to perform steel erection work. From this point, ironworkers enter the structural steel building at the basement floor slab at the deep end of the excavation. In this case, the basement floor slab becomes the primary construction entrance for erection of the multistory structural steel. When the structural steel is erected on the basement floor slab a construction personnel hoist is required to be operational when structural

steel level reaches 36 feet above the basement floor slab entry point if the final building will be at least 60 feet in height above the basement floor slab.

Please contact me at (510) 286-7010 if you have additional questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Berg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "B".

Eric Berg
Acting Deputy Chief
Research and Standards

Cc: Juliann Sum, Larry McCune, Abigail Fabricante