
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Elevator Safety Fund

Purpose and History

Elevator safety laws were first enacted by the Iowa General Assembly in 1923 ([1923 Iowa Acts, chapter 18](#)). State law requires that elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, and related equipment comply with all applicable rules and statutes. No new installation or alteration work may begin in Iowa until the installer obtains the proper permit from the [Iowa Division of Labor](#) (Iowa Workforce Development Department). The equipment cannot be used until it passes inspection by a State inspector.

The Elevator Safety Fund is a revolving fund established in 2004 in Iowa Code section [89A.19](#) by [HF 2447](#) (Elevators, Boilers, and Pressure Vessels Regulation and Safety Act). Money in the Fund is appropriated to the Labor Commissioner to pay the actual costs and expenses necessary to operate the [Elevator Safety Board](#) and perform the duties related to the registration, inspection, alterations, installation, and operation of elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, and related equipment located within the State.

The mission of the Elevator Safety Board is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare relating to the safe and proper installation, repair, maintenance, alteration, use, and operation of conveyances in the State. The authority and responsibilities of the Board include in part the following:

- Adopting rules necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to administer the duties of the Board.
- Hearing and deciding appeals concerning inspection reports that relate to the installation, operation, and maintenance of conveyances in the State.
- Hearing and deciding appeals concerning actions by the commissioner to deny, suspend, or revoke operating permits.
- Establishing fees.
- Establishing committees of the Board.
- Performing any other function authorized by law.

The original enactment of the Fund had a repeal date of July 1, 2012. This repeal was later removed in 2008 by [SF 2304](#) (Boiler and Pressure Vessel and Elevator Safety Revolving Funds Act). [2020 Iowa Acts, chapter 1103](#), authorized the Elevator Safety Board to set fees at an amount sufficient to cover time and expenses and to consider setting reduced fees for nonprofit associations and nonprofit corporations.

Funding

The Elevator Safety Fund receives fees for the following services: annual operating permits, periodic inspections, installation permits, alteration permits, constructing permits, controller upgrade permits, consultative inspections, special inspector commissions, witnessing safety tests, permit inspections, inspections outside of normal business hours, reinspections, and inspections for temporary removal of service. When a State inspector combines two different types of inspections on a single conveyance into

More Information

Elevators and Escalators, Division of Labor: www.iowadivisionoflabor.gov/elevators-and-escalators
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one visit, the Commissioner may waive the lesser of the fees.

From fiscal year (FY) 2017-2020, the fee revenue has averaged \$2.1 million per year. Prior to the collection of fees beginning in FY 2005, the costs associated with elevator inspections were part of the General Fund appropriation to [Iowa Workforce Development](#).

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [89A](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [875—65](#), [875—66](#), [875—67](#), [875—68](#), [875—69](#), [875—70](#), [875—71](#), [875—72](#), and [875—73](#)

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