

OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

New York, September 30, 1943

Subject: Automatic Elevators
 Space Conditions between
Hoistway Doors and Threshold

In the years that have elapsed since owners were first informed of the sheer hazards that existed on their elevators (Ruling GP 60 dated September 9, 1932 and its supplement dated July 13, 1933) many of the buildings undoubtedly have changed hands.

There is the possibility that the former owner did not comply with our original recommendations and the present owner is not fully aware of the hazards that may exist on his elevators and which should have been corrected.

Some owners installed the required "space shields" on the hoistway doors to prevent persons from standing in the space between the hoistway door and the car gate when the car was at the landing but they neglected to remove the projecting hardware on the inside of the door, such as door knobs, handles, latches, etc. Their failure to remove the projecting hardware actually defeated the primary purpose of the shield unless the full height of the door was covered and the hardware recessed.

With the bevel type shield at the bottom of the doors it is still possible (and many cases have been reported) for a child to occupy the space between the hoistway door and the car gate by simply supporting itself (or by hanging) on the door hardware and raising its weight above the shield. Any person pressing a button at the time (on single automatic push button elevators) would cause a serious accident. Where movable platforms are concerned this condition is even more serious because the gate does not have to be closed. In all cases the owner should be instructed to remove the projecting door hardware.

Whenever a change in the ownership of a building containing elevators of the type mentioned comes to the attention of our offices, a careful check should be made of the records and the present owner advised in writing of the existing hazards.

In the case of customers whose elevators are under some form of Otis Contract Service, it is the duty of the District Supervisor, when making an Annual Equipment Survey, to report any excessive space conditions between car and hoistway doors and any other hazards relative to the doors that may exist. Recommendations should be submitted immediately to the customer to avoid any misunderstandings as to the extent of our responsibility.

A. R. Potts
 GENERAL SERVICE MANAGER'S OFFICE

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