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Installation of Escalator Skirt Deflector Devices

ASME A17.1 (2007), 6.1.3.3.10 permits the installation of skirt deflectors (brushes) on escalators to deflect the feet of riders away from the area where the moving step travels along the stationary skirt panels. The brushes are mounted to the skirt panels and protrude over the gap between the step and skirt. Requirement 6.1.3.3.10 (a) (2) states the following:

"On the incline, the area of any protrusion shall lie entirely above a line on the skirt panel positioned at least 25 mm (1 in.) vertically above the step nose line."

The A17.1 Handbook provides the intent of this requirement as follows: "Deflector systems are an uncomplicated method of deflecting the feet of the riders away from the step/skirt panel interface..." Unfortunately the code does not give direction to limit the height of skirt deflector devices.

Therefore it is the position of the department that in addition to the requirements of 6.1.3.3.10 (a) (2) and 6.1.3.3.10 (a) (3) where deflector systems are installed the lower edge of the rigid element lower surface (nearest the step nose line) shall be located not more than 76 mm (3 in.) vertically above the step nose line

This will remain the department's position until the department accepts a change or later interpretation to the code.

Reminders:

1. Application and fees are required to be submitted to the department per SPS 318.1008 table 5.
2. An acceptance inspection for this alteration is required per A17.1 8.7.1.3