

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
NATALIE E. TENNANT
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #3

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2011 JUL 28 AM 11:31

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED RULE
AND
FILING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

AGENCY: West Virginia Division of Labor TITLE NUMBER: 42

CITE AUTHORITY: W. Va. Code 21-3C-11.

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 21A

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Supervision of Elevator Mechanics and Apprentices

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE HAVING GONE TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PROMULGATING AGENCY FOR FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW.


Authorized Signature

QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please include a copy of this form with each filing of your rule: Notice of Public Hearing or Comment Period; Proposed Rule, and if needed, Emergency and Modified Rule.)

DATE: July 28, 2011

TO: LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: (Agency Name, Address & Phone No.) West Virginia Division of Labor
State Capitol Complex
Building 6, Room B-749
Charleston, WV 25305
304.558.7890

LEGISLATIVE RULE TITLE: Supervision of Elevator Mechanics and Apprentices

1. Authorizing statute(s) citation W Va Code 21-3C-11

2. a. Date filed in State Register with Notice of Hearing or Public Comment Period:
June 27, 2011

b. What other notice, including advertising, did you give of the hearing?
All active maintenance companies and all mechanics and apprentices in the Division's databases, all Division-approved elevator inspectors, and all interested unions were notified.

c. Date of Public Hearing(s) *or* Public Comment Period ended:
July 27, 2011

d. Attach list of persons who appeared at hearing, comments received, amendments, reasons for amendments.

Attached x No comments received

- e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (be exact)

July 28, 2011

- f. **Name, title, address and phone/fax/e-mail numbers** of agency person(s) to receive all *written correspondence* regarding this rule: (Please type)

David W. Mullins, Commissioner, West Virginia Division of Labor, State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room B-749, Charleston, WV 25305
304.558.7890 x 111 (phone); 304.558.2273 (fax); david.w.mullins@wv.gov

- g. **IF DIFFERENT FROM ITEM 'f',** please give **Name, title, address and phone number(s)** of agency person(s) who wrote and/or has responsibility for the contents of this rule: (Please type)

Jennifer Burgess, Director, Safety Section, West Virginia Division of Labor, State Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room B-749, Charleston, WV 25305
304.558.7890 x 120 (phone); 304.558.2415 (fax); jennifer.w.burgess@wv.gov

3. If the statute under which you promulgated the submitted rules requires certain findings and determinations to be made as a condition precedent to their promulgation:

- a. Give the date upon which you filed in the State Register a notice of the time and place of a hearing for the taking of evidence and a general description of the issues to be decided.

N/A

b. Date of hearing or comment period:

June 27, 2011 through July 27, 2011

c. On what date did you file in the State Register the findings and determinations required together with the reasons therefor?

July 28, 2011

d. Attach findings and determinations and reasons:

Attached

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF LABOR

749-B Building 6 , Capitol Complex • Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Phone (304) 558-7890 • Fax (304) 558-2273

www.wvlabor.org

EARL RAY TOMBLIN
Governor



DAVID W. MULLINS
Commissioner

Statement of Facts and Circumstances

and

Summary of Proposed Amendments to Title 42, Series 21A

Supervision of Elevator Mechanics and Apprentices

The West Virginia Division of Labor proposes the following amendments and revisions to Title 42, Series 21A, of the West Virginia Code of State Regulations:

- incorporating the 2010 amendments to the Elevator Safety Act, W. Va. Code § 21-3C-10a, concerning the requirements to obtain a commercial license, an accessibility license and a limited technician license.
- clarifying that, in order to renew a grandfathered license that has expired and lapsed, an applicant may be subject to the licensure requirements in effect at the time of the renewal.

APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Supervision of Elevator Mechanics and Apprentices

Rule Title: _____

Type of Rule:

Legislative Interpretive Procedural

Agency:

West Virginia Division of Labor

Address:

State Capitol Complex
Building 6, Room B-749
Charleston, WV 25305

Phone Number:

304.558.7890 x 111

Email: david.w.mullins@wv.gov

Fiscal Note Summary

Summarize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.

The Division of Labor anticipates that the proposed amendments to the legislative rule will have a minimal impact on the costs and revenues of state government.

Fiscal Note Detail

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

FISCAL YEAR			
Effect of Proposal	Current Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Next Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personal Services	0.00	0.00	0.00
Current Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Repairs & Alterations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0.00	0.00	0.00

Supervision of Elevator Mechanics and Apprentices

Rule Title: _____

Rule Title: _____

3. **Explanation of above estimates (including long-range effect):**
Please include any increase or decrease in fees in your estimated total revenues.

N/A

MEMORANDUM

Please identify any areas of vagueness, technical defects, reasons the proposed rule would not have a fiscal impact, and/or any special issues not captured elsewhere on this form.

Date: June 27, 2011

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

Angel R. Moore

TITLE 42
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF LABOR

FILED
2011 JUL 28 AM 11:31
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

SERIES 21A
SUPERVISION OF ELEVATOR MECHANICS AND APPRENTICES

§42-21A-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This legislative rule governs standards, qualifications, requirements and procedures for licensing elevator mechanics and apprentices, the powers and duties of the West Virginia Commissioner of the Division of Labor and penalties for violations in accordance with W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §21-3C-11.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~April 15, 2011.~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~May 2, 2011.~~

§42-21A-2. Application and Enforcement.

2.1. Application. This legislative rule applies to the Commissioner and all persons working as elevator mechanics, limited technicians or elevator mechanic apprentices as defined in W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*

2.2. Enforcement. The enforcement of this legislative rule is vested with the Commissioner.

§42-21A-3. Definitions.

3.1. "ASME" refers to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Three Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016-5990.

3.2. "Elevator apprentice" or "elevator mechanic apprentice" means a person who meets the requirements set forth in W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, and this rule.

3.3. "Limited technician license" means a license issued to a person employed by a historic resort hotel.

§42-21A-4. Adoption of Standards.

The following American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standards are

incorporated by reference:

4.1. ASME Code A17.1 - 2009, "Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators," effective June 30, 2010;

4.2. ASME Code 17.2 - 2007, "Guide for Inspection of Elevators and Escalators," effective October 5, 2007;

4.3. ASME Code 17.3 - 2008, "Safety Code for Existing Elevators and Escalators," effective July 9, 2009; and

4.4. ASME Code A18.1, "Safety Code for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts," published on August 28, 2008.

§42-21A-5. Licensure and Registration Required.

5.1. A person may not engage or offer to engage in the business of erecting, constructing, installing, altering, servicing, repairing or maintaining elevators or related conveyances covered by W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, without a license issued according to the provisions of W. Va. Code § 21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule.

5.2. A person may not work as an elevator apprentice unless he or she is registered with the Commissioner and meets the requirements set forth in section 7 of this rule.

§42-21A-6. Minimum Qualifications for Licensure; Requirement to Work under Contractor's License.

6.1. The Commissioner shall issue a license to an applicant who:

6.1.a. Is at least 18 years of age;

6.1.b. Submits an application on forms provided by the Commissioner;

6.1.c. Pays the application fee; and

6.1.d. Meets one of the following requirements:

6.1.d.1. ~~Submits documentation of not less than 3 years work experience in the elevator industry, in construction, maintenance, service or repair or any combination thereof, as verified by current and previous employers, and a score of 70% or better on the written examination approved by the Commissioner; Completion of a four-year apprenticeship program, registered by the United States Department of Labor, to qualify for a commercial license;~~

~~6.1.d.2. Submits certificates of completion and of successful passage of the examination of a nationally recognized training program for the elevator industry as approved by the Commissioner; or Completion of a two-year apprenticeship program, registered by the United States Department of Labor, to qualify for an accessibility license; or~~

~~6.1.d.3. Submits certificates of completion of an apprenticeship program for elevator mechanics registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training of the U. S. Department of Labor and as approved by the Commissioner. Completion of a certified apprenticeship program, registered by the United States Department of Labor established at a historic hotel, to qualify for a limited technician license.~~

6.2. A license which was issued without examination and which was applied for on or before July 1, 2010 pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-11(a)(3) may be renewed in the same manner as a license issued pursuant to the provisions of subsection 6.1.a through 6.1.c. of this section: Provided That if a license issued pursuant to this subsection subsequently lapses, the applicant may, at the Commissioner's discretion, be subject to all the licensure requirements in effect at the time of the renewal application.

~~6.2: 6.3.~~ The Commissioner shall reject any application containing willfully submitted false or untrue information.

~~6.3: 6.4.~~ A license issued pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code § 21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule is not assignable or transferable, and is valid for a period not to exceed 1 year from the date on which it was issued.

~~6.4: 6.5.~~ A licensee performing the work of an elevator mechanic must be, or be employed by, a contractor licensed pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-11-1, *et seq.*

~~6.5: 6.6.~~ Each licensed elevator mechanic shall carry proof of valid licensure on his or her person during the performance of elevator mechanic work.

§42-21A-7. Qualifications and Supervision Requirements for Elevator Apprentices.

7.1. A person desiring to work as an elevator apprentice in this state shall register with the Commissioner on a form provided by the Commissioner.

7.2. The registrant shall provide documentation of enrollment in an elevator apprentice program recognized by the ~~U. S.~~ United States Department of Labor, on forms provided by the Commissioner.

7.3. An elevator apprentice may work only under the supervision of a licensed elevator mechanic, as specifically set forth in W. Va. Code § 21-3C-10a (e).

7.4. A registration issued pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code § 21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule is not assignable or transferable, and is valid for a period not to exceed 1 year from the date on which it was issued.

§ 42-21A-8. Limited Technician License.

8.1. The Commissioner shall issue a limited technician license to an applicant who:

8.1.a. ~~Is at least 18 years of age;~~ Meets the requirements of subsection 6.1.d.3; and

8.1.b. ~~Submits an application on forms provided by the Commissioner;~~

8.1.c. ~~Pays the application fee; and~~

8.1.d. ~~b.~~ Provides current documentation that he or she is regularly employed by a historic resort hotel and is paid regular wages and not a contract price.

8.2. A limited technician license issued pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule is not assignable or transferable, and is valid for a period not to exceed 1 year from the date on which it was issued.

8.3. A limited technician license is valid only for work performed on property owned or leased by the historic resort hotel as identified on the face of the license.

8.4. A person licensed as a limited technician ~~may~~ shall not replace any of the following:

8.4.a. Governors;

8.4.b. Sheave wheels or bearings;

8.4.c. Cables and shackles;

8.4.d. Ring gears and worn gears;

8.4.e. Buffers;

8.4.f. Traveling cables;

8.4.g. Hydro pumps;

8.4.h. Hydro pump motors;

8.4.i. Hydro valve chests;

8.4.j. Jack packing and seals; or

8.4.k. Rope grippers.

§42-21A-9. Expiration and Renewal.

9.1. All licenses and registrations expire on the last day of the anniversary month from the month of issuance of the license.

9.2. An elevator mechanic, limited technician, or elevator apprentice is responsible for submitting his or her license or registration renewal to the Commissioner prior to the expiration date.

9.3. An elevator mechanic, limited technician, or elevator apprentice who has not renewed his or her license or registration in accordance with the provisions of W. Va. Code § 21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule shall submit a new application to the Commissioner.

9.4. The Commissioner shall mail license and registration renewal notifications in a timely manner to each elevator mechanic, limited technician, and elevator apprentice.

§42-21A-10. Emergency Licenses.

10.1. Whenever an emergency exists in the state due to disaster, act of God, or work stoppage, as declared by the President of the United States or Governor of West Virginia, and the number of persons in the state holding elevator mechanic licenses granted by the Commissioner is insufficient to cope with the emergency, the licensed elevator contractors may request that the Commissioner issue an emergency elevator mechanic license to a person certified by the licensed elevator contractor to have an acceptable combination of documented experience and education to perform elevator work without direct supervision.

10.2. Any person certified by a licensed elevator contractor pursuant to this section who responds to an emergency as set forth in this section shall apply for an emergency elevator mechanic license from the Commissioner within 5 business days after commencing work requiring a license.

10.3. Upon receipt of proof of competency of the applicant from a licensed elevator contractor, the Commissioner shall issue an emergency elevator mechanic license.

10.4. Each emergency license shall state that it is valid for a period of 30 days from the date of issuance for particular elevators or geographical areas designated by the Commissioner, and entitles the licensee to the rights and privileges of an elevator mechanic license issued under the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, and this rule.

10.5. The Commissioner shall not charge for an emergency elevator mechanic license.

§42-21A-11. Temporary Licenses.

11.1. In the event that there are no licensed elevator mechanics available to engage in the work of an elevator mechanic, a licensed elevator contractor may request that the Commissioner issue a temporary elevator mechanic license. The licensed elevator contractor shall certify by sworn affidavit that the person for whom the temporary license is sought has an acceptable combination of documented experience and education to perform elevator work without direct supervision.

11.2. Any person certified by a licensed elevator contractor pursuant to this section shall apply for a temporary elevator mechanic license from the Commissioner before commencing work requiring a license.

11.3. Upon receipt of proof of competency of the applicant from a licensed elevator contractor, the Commissioner shall issue a temporary elevator mechanic license.

11.4. Each temporary license shall state that it is valid for a period of 30 days from the date of issuance for particular elevators or geographical areas designated by the Commissioner, and entitles the licensee to the rights and privileges of an elevator mechanic license issued under the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, and this rule.

11.5. The Commissioner shall charge a fee for a temporary elevator mechanic license, as set forth in this rule.

§42-21A-12. Continuing Education.

12.1. As a condition of the renewal of an elevator mechanic's license, the licensee shall complete continuing education courses as set forth in this section.

12.2. The courses shall consist of not fewer than 8 hours of instruction, which must be attended and successfully completed within the year immediately preceding the renewal. The training need not be continuous but may be an accumulation of shorter periods that total at least 8 hours.

12.3. The courses shall be taught by continuing education providers approved by the Commissioner, including but not limited to, trade association seminars, labor training programs, career technology centers and the Division.

12.4. A licensee who is unable to complete the continuing education courses required under this section prior to the expiration of his or her license due to a temporary disability, military service or other good cause shown, may apply to the Commissioner for a waiver. The Commissioner may grant a waiver under this subsection in his or her sole discretion.

§42-21A-13. Reciprocity.

13.1. For any state that has requirements substantially equivalent to those provided for by W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, and this rule, and has entered into a reciprocity agreement with the Commissioner, the Commissioner may issue an elevator mechanic license to an applicant who documents that he or she holds a valid license issued by that state.

13.2. An out of state applicant must submit a written application as provided for in section 6 of this rule, and upon renewal, must comply with the continuing education requirements in section 11 of this rule.

13.3. The Commissioner is not required to issue a reciprocal license to an applicant who is the subject of disciplinary action or against whom there is an unresolved complaint in another state.

§42-21A-14. Denial, Suspension, Revocation, or Reinstatement of License.

14.1. The Commissioner may deny, suspend, revoke or reinstate a license.

14.2. A violation of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule is grounds for the denial, suspension, revocation or refusal to reinstate a license and permits the Commissioner to impose disciplinary action: Provided, that no disciplinary action may be imposed against a licensee without notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the Commissioner, or his or her designee. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of W. Va. Code §29A-5-1, *et seq.*, the Administrative Procedures Act. At the hearing, the licensee shall be allowed to present evidence and testimony in person, by counsel or both, and may cross-examine witnesses and submit rebuttal evidence. After the hearing, if the Commissioner finds a violation of this rule has occurred, the Commissioner may impose any disciplinary action permitted by law.

14.3. The Commissioner may suspend or revoke the license of a licensee who performs elevator mechanic work in violation of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule. The suspension of a license shall be for not less than 24 hours nor more than 1 year. The Commissioner may reinstate the license upon satisfactory proof that the licensee is in full compliance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, and this rule.

14.4. A person whose license has been revoked may apply for a new license 1 year after the date of the revocation.

§42-21A-15. Effect of Noncompliance.

Each day during which a person performs elevator mechanic work without the required license or while in non-compliance with any of the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule, after written notice from the Commissioner or a Division inspector that the work is unlawful, is a separate violation of the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, and this rule.

§42-21A-16. Disposition of Complaints.

16.1. In the course of investigating complaints, the Commissioner shall determine whether or not the person against whom the complaint has been filed is properly licensed under the provisions of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*

16.2. Any citizen, law enforcement official or other official of any state, county, or municipal government agency, upon observing or learning of a violation of the licensure requirements of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule, may file a written complaint with the Commissioner. The Commissioner may provide a form for this purpose, but a complaint may be filed in any written form. When a complaint is filed with the Commissioner, it shall be investigated. In addition to describing the alleged violation which prompted the complaint, the complaint shall contain as a minimum the following information:

16.2.a. The name of the person against whom the complaint is lodged;

16.2.b. The date of the alleged violation;

16.2.c. The nature of the alleged violation; and

16.2.d. The location of the violation or occurrence.

16.3. A copy of the complaint sent to the licensee shall be considered properly served when sent to his or her last known address. It is the responsibility of the licensee to keep the Commissioner informed of his or her current address. The licensee has 30 days to file a response or appeal petition to the complaint with the Commissioner.

16.4. After receipt and review of a complaint, the Commissioner shall cause to be conducted any reasonable inquiry or investigation he or she considers necessary to determine the truth and validity of the allegations set forth in the complaint.

16.5. Upon a finding of probable cause that a violation of W. Va. Code §21-3C-1, *et seq.*, or this rule has occurred, the Commissioner shall proceed in the manner described in section 14 of this rule.

16.6. Any party adversely affected by a decision of the Commissioner entered after a hearing may seek review by appeal to a circuit court of West Virginia, as set forth in W. Va. Code §29A-5-4.

16.7. Any party adversely affected by the final judgment of the circuit court may seek review by appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, as set forth in W. Va. Code §29A-6-1.

§42-21A-17. Fees.

17.1. The Commissioner shall deposit all fees paid pursuant to this rule in a special revenue account with the State Treasurer for the use of the Commissioner as provided under W. Va. Code §21-3C-11(c).

17.2. The Commissioner shall charge the following fees:

17.2.a. Initial license .. \$90

17.2.b. Annual renewal of license .. \$90

17.2.c. Temporary license .. \$90

17.2.d. Duplicate license (original lost or destroyed) .. \$10

17.2.e. Reinstatement of lapsed license .. \$115.

17.3. The Commissioner shall waive the license fee for a licensee who is a contractor and who has paid a contractor license fee under the provisions of W. Va. Code 21-11-1, *et seq.*

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED
AGENCY RESPONSES AND AMENDMENTS

Comments from Chuck Sharp

Mr. Sharp objected to the proposed amendments concerning the elimination of other nationally recognized training programs for elevator mechanics or testing as a means to qualify for a mechanic's license, and limiting the qualifications to completion of a 2-year or 4-year apprenticeship program through the United States Department of Labor as the only accepted qualifications.

Agency Response

While the Division is aware of the Mr. Sharp's concerns, the proposed amendments to the legislative rule incorporate the statutory changes made by the Legislature in 2010 concerning the requirements to obtain a commercial license, an accessibility license and a limited technician license. *See* W. Va. Code § 21-3C-10a (c). A statutory amendment would be necessary in order to accommodate Mr. Sharp's objections.

Accordingly, no amendments were made to the proposed rule.

Comments from Ron and Marsha Rucker

Mr. and Mrs. Rucker objected to the elimination of the option for "qualified, experienced individuals from having an opportunity to sit for an examination" as it will then force individuals into an unnecessary apprenticeship program and expenses for gas and valuable time off in a classroom "on their own time" as required by the apprenticeship program. The concern is that training for the accessibility industry requires a two-year apprenticeship which has not been approved by the United States Department of Labor and will not be considered until ten states have laws in place that require accessibility technicians to be licensed. There is also a technicality in that the United States Department of Labor does not have an occupational code for accessibility technicians, and review of those occupational codes will not occur until 2013 for a new manual in 2018.

Agency Response

While the Division is aware of the Mr. and Mrs. Rucker's concerns, the proposed amendments to the legislative rule incorporate the statutory changes made by the Legislature in 2010 concerning the requirements to obtain a commercial license, an accessibility license and a limited technician license. *See* W. Va. Code § 21-3C-10a (c). A statutory amendment would be necessary in order to accommodate the Ruckers' objections.

Accordingly, no amendments were made to the proposed rule.

Burgess, Jennifer W

From: Chuck Sharp [Chuck.Sharp@dcelevatorco.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 1:52 PM
To: Burgess, Jennifer W
Cc: steve.bowlds@dcelevatorco.com

Commissioner,

I am not in favor of the proposed rules. The previous rule 6.1.d.1 - .3 should have been left unchanged and the additions for the historic hotel apprentice and accessibility apprentice should have been separate or in the most an addition to 6.1.d.3.code. With the new code / rule experienced mechanics like myself could not get a license in the state of West Virginia if I had not grandfathered in because the apprenticeship programs for elevator constructors did not exist prior to 2003 and I have been a adjustor / mechanic for 20 years. The same scenario would apply if for some reason I had let my license lapse. I'm now 50 and maybe a little too old to start a 4 year elevator constructors apprenticeship. The work experience and taking of a test (previous 6.1.d.1) or completion of one of the nationally recognized training programs like the NEIEP or NAEC (previous 6.1.d.2) would insure that the state of West Virginia has qualified mechanics working on their elevators. Also, I would like to mention that the state of Kentucky just adopted similar wording allowing either apprenticeship, work experience with a test or educational completion as part of their mechanic requirements. I would hope that the Department of Labor would consider these suggestions by an experienced mechanic who enjoys working in the state of West Virginia.

Charles (Chuck) A. Sharp
Vice-President
D-C Elevator Co., Inc.
chuck.sharp@dcelevatorco.com
859-254-8224 (office)
859-231-8740 (fax)
859-619-3248 (cell)

July 27, 2011

Mr. David A. Mullins, Commissioner of Labor
WV Division of Labor
Building 6, Room B-749
Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: 42-3C, Proposed Legislative Rule for Elevator Safety Act/Supervision of Elevator Mechanics and Apprentices, WV Code 21-3C-11

Dear Commissioner Mullins:

Out of concern for how the above proposed rule will affect our employees, our hiring potential, the accessibility industry, and our ability to continue operating as a small business, we are writing this letter in opposition to the proposal.

The rule making proposal 6.1.d.1, if stricken, would prevent qualified, experienced individuals from having the opportunity to sit for an examination. WV Code 21-3C-11 references an examination as one of the provisions an individual may be subject to if a license, granted before July 1, 2010, were to lapse. For those individuals who were not granted a license, during the grandfathering period, due to various technicalities, but have documented work experience of three years or more should also be provided the opportunity to take this same exam (rule making proposal 6.2 also references 21-3C-11(a)(3) of the WV Code)

The impact of not having an exam, as other states do, would force individuals capable of performing work without direct supervision:

1. into an apprenticeship program unnecessarily
2. to unnecessarily spend their money, gas, and valuable time off in a classroom, "on their own time", as required per the apprenticeship program
3. to consider whether they want to continue working for a company where the only option is to enroll in an apprenticeship program in order to demonstrate the knowledge/skill they've already worked so hard to achieve. They can, regrettably, apply their electro-mechanical skills elsewhere.

As a small company, this would have detrimental effects, as we face losing valuable, skilled employees. Additionally, we could not financially afford to enroll experienced employees, unnecessarily, in an apprenticeship program. Their time would be better served acquiring CEU's and industry specific ways to improve the skills they already possess. Our customers, ultimately, would be better served if we were to direct our valuable resources toward bringing new applicants into a program.

Realizing that an exam has not been developed, to date, we are asking that this remain a viable option.

In reference to rule making proposal 6.1.d.2, we are working with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, locally, setting up our standards, with the intent of using the Certified Accessibility Technician (CAT) Program, offered through the National Association of Elevator Contractors (NAEC). According to their program description, it is structured to meet Federal Apprenticeship requirements of

144 classroom hours and 2000 on-the-job training hours annually. However, in working through this process, that started prior to the passage of the 2010 amendment to WV Code 21-3C, we have recently learned, and have passed this information on to the Office of Apprenticeship, for further understanding from them on this issue and its effects, that the CAT Program cannot be presently considered as an apprenticeship program according to the DOL because there isn't a BLS code for accessibility technicians, therefore the CAT program is not an apprenticeable occupation. The minimum standard to be considered by the DOL is that ten states would have to have laws in place that require accessibility technicians to be licensed before the DOL would even consider doing a study on the CAT program as an apprenticeable program. We understand that the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) is up for reviewing 2013 in preparation for the 2018 SOC manual. Another resulting hardship on our business and the accessibility industry would be out of state applicants, who have completed the CAT program, unable to meet the requirements of 42-21A-13 since the program is not registered with the U.S. DOL.

Without the option of using the CAT certification program, without an exam, and without an apprenticeable industry classification, at present, our employees, our accessibility industry, and our ability to continue business in the State of WV is facing a challenge. We are willing to work through the process; however the current WV Elevator Safety Code and Proposed Legislative Rule leave us restricted to deliver valuable and much needed services to our customers in need of accessibility solutions throughout the State of WV.

Sincerely,

Ron and Marsha Rucker
Progressive Elevators, Inc.