

# Section 21

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary defines various terms used in the *Elevator Industry Field Employees' Safety Handbook*.

**Abatement** – Elimination of workplace hazards either immediately or through a process.

**Acute** – Injury or Illness caused by a one time exposure.

**Acute Effect** – Adverse effect which has severe symptoms developing rapidly and coming quickly to a crisis.

**American National Standards Institute [ANSI]** – A voluntary membership organization (run with private funding) that coordinates the development of consensus standards nationally and verifies that the principles of openness and due process have been followed.

**ASME A17.1 Code** – A code of safety standards covering the design, construction, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alteration and repair of elevators, escalators, moving walks and dumbwaiters. AKA Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, ASME A17.1 an American National Standard.

**Barricade** – A temporary structure to restrict access to an escalator or elevator..

**Bloodborne Pathogens** – An OSHA Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030, requiring Companies whose employees are exposed to human blood or other potentially infectious material to have a program that is disseminated to all employees.

**Carcinogen** – A substance or physical agent that may cause cancer.

**Chemical** – Manufactured substance used on the worksite that requires an Material Safety Data Sheet.

**Chronic** – Injury or Illness caused by a persistent, prolonged or repeated exposure to a hazard or hazardous condition.

**Chronic Effect** – An adverse effect on a human body, with symptoms which develop slowly over a long period of time or which recur frequently.

**Code of Federal Regulations [CFR]** – Federal codes that address specific standards, including OSHA regulations.

**Competent Person** – A person who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards, on the job, in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to employees and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

**Confined Space** – An area that has adequate size and configuration for employee entry; and has a limited means for entry and exit; and is not designed for continuous occupancy.

**Do-Not-Start Tag** – A company approved tag used in conjunction with the company lockout/tagout program, advising the equipment has been de-energized for maintenance or repairs.

**Emergency Response** – A plan to ensure employee safety in the event of fire and other emergencies that is not limited to, escape procedures and routes, employee accounting and reporting.

**Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]** – A Federal agency responsible for the administration of laws to control and/or reduce pollution of the air, water and land.

**Equipment** – elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, moving walks, platform lifts and chair lifts.

**Explosive Range** – The range between the lower and upper explosive limits, expressed in terms of percentage of vapor or gas in air by volume, and is also often referred to as the “Flammable Range.”

**Fall Hazard** – exists when working more than 6 ft (1.8 m) above a lower level and an opening greater than 12 in. (305 mm).

**Fall Protection** – The use of guardrails, floor hole covers or personal fall arrest systems when a potential fall hazard exists.

**False Car** – A temporary movable platform assembled or built on the job-site for installing elevator equipment.

**Flash Point** – The lowest temperature at which a liquid gives off enough vapor to form an ignitable mixture with air and burn when a source of ignition (sparks, open flames, cigarettes, etc.) is present.

**Foot Protection** – Work shoes or boots that meet the company, industry and/or ANSI Z41 standard.

**Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter [GFCI]** – A device intended for the protection of personnel that functions to de-energize a circuit or portion thereof within an established period of time when a current to ground exceeds 4-6 milliamps (mA).

**Guardrail System** – An OSHA compliant barrier installed at the entrance of elevator hoistway or around a hoistway or escalator/moving walk wellway at construction, modernization or major repair site.

**Hazard Communication [HAZCOM or Right-to-Know]** – A formal process to alert employees about workplace chemicals through a written program.

**Incident** – An occurrence or event resulting in a serious injury, illness (medical treatment beyond first aid), death, environmental spill and/or near miss.

**Job Hazard Assessment [JHA]** – Process of analyzing each step of a task to identify hazards and corrective actions to minimize/eliminate hazards.

**Jumpers** – A temporary means of bypassing or shunting an electrical circuit.

**Lockout/Tagout** – A procedure to identify all potential energy sources and to ensure that they are completely isolated (locks and tags are attached to primary energy sources) prior to working on system.

**Lower Explosive Limit [LEL]** – (AKA Lower Flammable Limit). The lowest concentration of a substance that will produce a fire or flash if an ignition source (flame, spark, etc.) is present.

**Material Safety Data Sheets [MSDS]** – A document that identifies the hazards, safe handling and emergency procedures for each individual hazardous chemical used in the workplace.

**National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health [NIOSH]** – A federal agency that develops and periodically revises exposure limits for hazardous substances or conditions. NIOSH also recommends appropriate preventive measures to reduce or eliminate adverse health and safety effects of these hazards.

**Occupational Safety & Health Administration [OSHA]** – Federal agency under the Department of Labor that publishes and enforces safety and health regulations for most businesses and industries in the United States.

**Permissible Exposure Limit [PEL]** – An exposure limit that is specified in OSHA regulations. PEL may be a time-weighted-average (TWA) exposure limit (8 hour), a 15-minute short-term exposure limit (STEL), or a ceiling (C).

**Permit** – Written permission to proceed with an activity. A customer may require a permit (permission) prior to performing hot work (welding, grinding), entering a confined space, etc. A legal document obtained from a government agency to allow for the installation or modernization of an elevator, etc.

**Permit Required Confined Space** – A confined space that contains a hazardous atmosphere, mechanical or electrical hazards, limited means of entry and egress and is a serious safety or health hazard that requires air monitoring, specific training, record keeping and permit for entry.

**Personal Fall Arrest System** – A system used to arrest an employee in a fall from a working level. It consists of an anchorage, connectors, a body harness and may include a lanyard, deceleration device, lifeline, or suitable combinations of these. (As defined by OSHA).

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Protective equipment for eyes, face, head and extremities. Including but not limited to protective clothing, respiratory devices and protective shields and barricades.

**Polychlorinated Biphenyls [PCBs]** – A compound derived from biphenyl and containing chlorine that is used in electrical insulators, flame-retardants, and plasticizers. PCB is a hazardous environmental pollutant that is difficult to dispose of safely.

**Professional Medical Treatment** – Medical treatment beyond first aid administered by a medical professional.

**Qualified Person** – One, who by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or by extensive knowledge, training, and/or experience has successfully demonstrated his/her ability to solve or resolve problems related to the work.

**Recognition of Hazards** – Ability to identify hazards that have the potential to injure employees on the job.

**Respiratory Protective Equipment** – Devices such as respirators and masks used to protect employees from inhalation of specific dust, chemicals and solvents.

**Right-to-Know** – See Hazard Communication Program.

**Running Platform** – A temporary device installed in the hoistway for elevator installation.

**Scaffolds** – A temporary working platform supported by a frame that is used for the erection or repair of an elevator.

**Shafter (also referred to as Spider, Go-Devil, Sky Climber or False Car)** – A moveable hoistway working platform, generally built on the jobsite for installing elevator equipment.

**Shall** – Indicates a mandatory requirement.

**Short Term Exposure Limit [STEL]** – The maximum concentration to which workers can be exposed for a short period of time (15 minutes).

**Should** – Indicates a recommendation not a mandatory requirement.

**Stop Switch** – A manually operated device that removes power from an elevator or escalator driving machine, motor and brake.

**Top of Car Inspection [TOCI]** – A device on top-of-the-car required by ASME A17.1 Code that permits elevator personnel to operate the elevator from the car top.

**Upper Explosive Limit [UEL]** – (AKA Upper Flammable Limit) The highest concentration of a substance that will burn or explode when an ignition source is present.