



The Insider: Escalator Safety

Summer is almost here, which means sunshine, vacations and children on school break. Airports, hotels, subway stations, shopping malls and other public areas with escalators will see a significant increase in passenger traffic over the next few months. Understanding escalator safety is of vital importance for riders as well as the owners and operators of this equipment. This issue of *The Insider* will explore safety tips and some of the safety features that go into every escalator to help keep riders safe.

Numerous factors can impact the safety of escalators, but two important areas of focus need to be appropriate riding behavior and proper maintenance. Both play a key role in ensuring the safety of all riders.

Many people ride escalators every day and may take precautions for granted. When using escalators during vacation, riders may be more easily distracted or less familiar with their surroundings. This is especially true when traveling with small children. While using escalators, it is important to keep some basic safety principles in mind.

The first step in escalator safety is to be alert and attentive. Stop and observe the direction of the escalator, step on and off carefully, face the direction of travel, and hold onto the handrail throughout travel. Also, be especially careful when wearing loose clothing (especially during beach season), wear proper footwear (never flip flops or soft-soled footwear), and stand clear of the sides of the escalator. And remember, escalators are designed to transport people only. If using a wheelchair, scooter, stroller, luggage cart or similar items, please take the elevator. Once you step off the escalator, move away from the exit to allow other passengers behind you to exit safely. It's that easy!

These safety tips are especially important for passengers riding with children. Children should never sit on the escalator steps or stand too close to the sides. Parents and guardians should always ride the escalator with their child and hold their free hand -- children should never be left unattended on or around escalators. Escalators are one of the safest forms of transportation in the world, but we must always remember that they are not a playground and should be treated with the same respect as cars or other equipment.

Newer escalators often include a feature unfamiliar to all riders. In 2000, the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 *Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators* added a provision to allow variable speed on escalators. This feature is designed to slow an escalator down to conserve energy when it is not being used. The code includes safety

requirements to ensure that approaching users are detected prior to reaching the escalator so that the escalator speed can be adjusted. This speed change is also gradual enough to prevent loss of balance, a fine example of how escalator technology is advancing to keep all passengers safe while riding.

Each of us play a part in escalator safety. Whether you're a manufacturer, a building owner, a legislator, a mechanic or a passenger, you can help make every escalator trip a safe one by staying aware of your surroundings and educating yourself with proper riding behaviors. We strongly believe that every accident is preventable, and *NEII*® is committed to working with the riding public, government agencies and industry stakeholders to ensure the safety of every passenger.



Have a comment or question for the experts? Want to submit a topic for a future issue of the newsletter? Send us your thoughts at theinsider@neii.org to keep the conversation going!

NEII® makes no warranty or representation as to the accuracy or completeness of the information provided. Neither *NEII*, nor its directors, officers, employees, or agents shall be responsible for the content or use of the information herein. To the fullest extent permitted by law, *NEII* disclaims all warranties express, implied, or statutory including but not limited to any warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringement.

National Elevator Industry, Inc.

1677 County Route 64 | P.O. Box 838 | Salem, New York 12865-0838

NEII and *NEII* logo • Registered, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Copyright © 2015 National Elevator Industry, Inc., Salem, NY

Call: 518-854-3100

Email: info@neii.org

www.neii.org



Follow @NEII_Tweets

Subscribe [here](#) to receive future editions of "The Insider" newsletter.