



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

FITZGERALD WASHINGTON
SECRETARY OF LABOR

August 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Elevator Contractors/Elevator Inspectors/Elevator Inspection Companies

FROM: Edward Wiggins, Director/Chief Inspector
Inspections Division: Elevators/Boilers

SUBJECT: Oil/Water Separator Variance for Hydraulic Elevators

There have been several inquiries into the viability of alternative oils (vegetable, biodegradable) for use in Hydraulic Elevators in Alabama to eliminate the need for an oil/water separator.

This proposal was approved by the Alabama Elevator Safety Review Board for addition to our rules. The following steps will be required:

1. A request for an Oil/Water Separator Variance must be submitted to this department along with the following documents:
 - a. A complete chemical analysis of the proposed alternative oil with verification of acceptable use as hydraulic fluid by the elevator manufacturer.
 - b. A certified letter of approval from the local sewage authority granting permission to discharge the proposed alternative oil into the sewage system.
 - c. An approved oil detection system with alarm and continuous pumping after oil is detected (via secondary probe). Details of the oil detection system shall be provided.
 - d. An acceptance letter of liability for the use and continued use of the proposed alternative oil by the owner/user for the life of the elevator.

The documents shall be reviewed upon receipt and the variance will be granted or disapproved by the Administrator or his/her designee.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact me:

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