



NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE:

2025 WMSC AUDIT OF METRORAIL'S ELEVATORS AND ESCALATORS – FINDING #5

ISSUED FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Summary

As part of the 2025 WMSC Audit of Metrorail's Elevators and Escalators (<https://wmsc.gov/audits/>), the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) issued a finding stating that Metrorail is not maintaining or displaying elevator or escalator certificates on-site as required by local jurisdictions.

As a result, a corrective action plan (CAP) is necessary to address this finding. The WMSC Program Standard states in section 9.C.3.a that "Within 30 days from the date the WMSC issues a finding or recommendation, WMATA must propose a suitable CAP (corrective action plan)." CAP WMSC-25-C0315 should have been developed and a draft submitted to the WMSC by November 14, 2025, however, WMATA has objected to, and has not provided a draft corrective action plan.

Authority

The Washington Metrorail Safety Commission (WMSC) Compact (P.L. 115-54), Article IV, Powers, Sec. 30(a) states "In carrying out its purposes, the Commission, through its Board or designated employees or agents, shall, consistent with federal law: (a) Adopt, revise, and distribute a written State Safety Oversight Program[]" and Sec. 30(c) states "(c) Require, review, approve, oversee, and enforce the adoption and implementation of any Corrective Action Plans that the Commission deems appropriate[.]" Further, WMSC Compact Sec. 31(c) provides that the WMSC may "[c]ompel WMATA's compliance with any Corrective Action Plan or order of the Commission by such means as the Commission deems appropriate...".

Pursuant to WMSC Compact Sec. 30(a) and 30(b) and 49 CFR sec. 674.27(a)(1), version 8 of the WMSC Program Standard became effective on October 1, 2025 (may be found at <https://wmsc.gov/program-standard/>). Program Standard sec. 9.C states that "Each finding issued by the WMSC requires WMATA to develop a suitable CAP. The WMSC may also require WMATA to develop a CAP due to other types of findings or conclusions, including from the sources noted in Section 9.A."

This Notice of Non-Compliance is brought in accordance with Program Standard sec. 11.B:

In the event WMATA fails to comply with any provision of this Program Standard, the WMSC may issue a notice of non-compliance, provide notice that the WMSC is invoking a power provided in Section 11.C, or both. The WMSC will identify the noncompliance issue and state any action required of WMATA in an email to the WMATA Executive Vice President and Chief

Safety & Readiness Officer, or the General Manager. WMATA must then respond by the deadline set by the WMSC. If WMATA fails to address the issue, the WMSC may take further action described in this Section 11.

Background

Regular safety inspections of elevators and escalators are required by the laws of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Once completed, and if the elevator or escalator passes the inspection, the certificate is displayed to provide assurance to the public that the elevator or escalator is safe to use as evidenced by the posting of a current certificate. The District of Columbia Building Code and Virginia Maintenance Code allow for certificates to either be posted near the equipment or available for review in an office on the premises. Maryland's Code for Public Safety requires that the certificate be posted in or on the elevator unit.

As part of the audit, the WMSC visited 14 Metrorail stations: five in the District of Columbia (Georgia Ave-Petworth, Metro Center, Fort Totten, Waterfront, Navy Yard-Ballpark), five in Maryland (Rockville, North Bethesda, Suitland, Naylor Road, Branch Ave), and four in Virginia (Franconia-Springfield, Crystal City, Pentagon City, Potomac Yard). At each of those stations, Metrorail was not displaying or maintaining certificates as required. Station Managers were not aware of how to locate the certificate.

A draft of the audit report was submitted to Metrorail on September 2, 2025, for its review and comment. Comments on the draft were received from Metrorail on October 2, 2025. In response to the finding, Metrorail stated, "To mitigate this risk and maintain transparency, ELES now: Uploads current certificates to the ELES webpage, accessible via station kiosk computers; Maintains physical copies of current certificates at each station kiosk for public review upon request. Recognizing the importance of applicable jurisdictional administrative requirements, ELES is actively exploring alternative display methods, and remains committed to working with jurisdictional partners to help ensure timely receipt and display of all required certifications." Physical copies of the certificates are not available at each station kiosk for public review as evidenced by the audit. If they were available, this finding would not have been issued.

In Metrorail's own 2023 Internal Safety Review of Elevators and Escalators Services, Metrorail found that "Elevators and Escalators Procedure, 212-SOP-30 (Rev. 5.0), Section 9.4 states *"Jurisdiction Inspection Certificates are stored in the Compliance Office at CTF; and are available electronically on the ELES X: Drive, and by clicking on the station within the System Map on the ELES intranet."* This finding is a repeat finding from the 2018 Elevator Internal Review which resulted in iCAPA-QICO-ELES-18-01 that was subsequently closed in August 2019. The iCAPA required a method to make annual inspection certificates for all assets available at their designated location."

Neither the 2018 nor the 2023 Metrorail internal corrective action plan has been successful defining a method for either posting of the certificates or the ability to display the certificates electronically.

Audits are conducted to determine if WMATA is in compliance with its Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan and other rules, policies, procedures, and requirements. WMATA has objected that this Finding is beyond the scope of the WMSC's audit authority. The WMSC Compact and Program Standard are clear on the WMSC's authority, and this finding is within that authority. WMATA's objections to the WMSC's authority are without merit and do not justify its refusal to fully respond and participate in the CAP development process.

The WMSC issued its final report for this audit on October 15, 2025. In accordance with the WMSC Program Standard (section 9.C.3.a) a draft corrective action plan should have been submitted to the WMSC on November 14, 2025. To date, a draft CAP has not been received.

Compliance

The corrective action plan related to Finding #5 of the WMSC's 2025 Audit of Elevators and Escalators has not been received. For WMATA to return to compliance, WMATA must submit a draft corrective action plan for WMSC review and approval.



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