OPSA - Elevators

#182

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Mr. J. Lisan
A403 Oak Summit Apts.
310 S. Easton Road
Glenside, Pa. 19038

Dear Mr. Lisan:

This will acknowledge receipt of your July 15 letter expressing concern for elevator safety.

It is our opinion that elevators intended for use by consumers are within the scope of the Consumer Product Safety Act and are therefore subject to possible regulatory action under that Act.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is currently gathering information with regard to a wide range of consumer products for consideration in compiling an order of priorities which will provide the basis for commencing proceedings for the development of initial consumer product safety standards. In compiling that list, the Commission is considering factors such as the frequency and severity of injuries associated with a given product; the degree of causal relationship; consumer exposure to the product; the voluntary or involuntary nature of that exposure; economic data such as the cost to consumers and manufacturers of mandated safety standard; and, other relevant information. Once the priority listing is developed, the Commission will address itself to those products that present the highest risk of injury to consumers.

We are unable at this time to advise you, with any certainty, as to the relative standing of elevators in the forthcoming product priority listing or as to whether elevators will necessarily appear on such listing.

The Commission's primary mission is to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with

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consumer products. Please be assured that our activities are ordered and directed toward that objective.

We appreciate your interest in product safety.

Sincerely yours,

Michael A. Brown

Michael A. Brown
Acting General Counsel

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Mr. J. Lisan
A403 Oak Summit Apts
310 S. Easton Road
Glenside, Pa. 19038

July 15, 1973

Director
Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

Every year large numbers of people are trapped in stalled elevators, and many unable to get out during fires die in them.

It seems incredible that elevator manufacturers are not required by law to install safety devices which would enable trapped persons to manually raise or lower stalled elevators to the next floor and to safety

Evidently the elevator safety laws fail to protect riders from this serious danger. Is there anything your commission can do to help correct this serious defect?

Can you advise concerned people like myself what to do about it?

I shall appreciate your help.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jacob Lisan