



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department

ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSING and BUILDING PERMITTING DIVISION / ADMINISTRATION

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DATE: January 8, 2016
TO: John W. Scott, Inspector General, Broward Office of the Inspector General
FROM: Hipolito Cruz, Jr., Regulated Businesses Administrator
SUBJECT: OIG 14-025

The Division respectfully submits the following status report in accordance with the January 14, 2016 deadline in the July 14, 2015 final report for OIG 14-025. As requested, the Division has: 1) continued monitoring of the number of elevators with overdue annual inspections and expired certificates of operation; 2) continued cooperation with elevator maintenance companies; 3) continued division of duties; 4) increased utilization of the Elevator Section's upgraded citation system; 5) commenced updating the section manual; and 6) updated the status of the improvements described in the County's response dated July 13, 2015. More detailed information on each of the six areas is provided below:

1. As of 12/31/15, the number of overdue annual inspections decreased to 3,151, a 15% reduction from the 3,707 overdue annual inspections on 12/09/14. The number of expired elevator certificates decreased approximately 35% during Fiscal Year 2015 from a peak of 4,605 on 12/09/14 to a low of 2,997 on 07/30/15. The beginning of the 2016 renewal cycle on 08/01/2015 saw an increase in noncompliance with the number of expired elevator certificates reaching 5,846 as of 08/06/2015. However, staff worked diligently to require elevator owners to comply with the renewal requirements and were subsequently able to reduce the number of elevators with expired certificates to 3,974 on 12/31/2015 (a 32% reduction). A year over year comparison results in an overall 13.7% decrease from December 2014 to December 2015, demonstrating the Division's commitment to maintaining a persistent downward trend for elevators with expired certificates of operation. The Division also continues to run reports on a weekly basis to ensure that the supervisor and staff monitor the current status and continually improve the compliance rates.
2. The Division continues to cooperate with elevator companies and maintain open lines of communication to ensure timely coordinated inspections and facilitate third party/private inspections. Please see letters/emails attached from elevator maintenance companies expressing their satisfaction with the current processes.
3. Substantial administrative assistance continues to be provided to expedite office functions and monitor enforcement efforts to maximize the section supervisor's ability to perform inspections.
4. Twenty (20) Notices of Violation (NOV's) have been issued for expired certificates of operation and thirty (30) NOV's have been issued for expired elevator permits in FY2016 using the upgraded citation system with enhanced citation issuance procedures.
5. The updating of the standard operating procedures (SOP's) has begun with an entire new section created. Please see attached "Standard Operating Procedures for Registering, Monitoring and Terminating Third-Party Certified Elevator Inspectors".
6. Please see additional improvements described below per the County's July 13, 2015 response to OIG 14-025 which are not included in 1-5 above:
 - Performance measures have been created for FY 2016 to track the number of overdue annual inspections and the percentage of elevators with expired certificates of operation.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

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- The utilization of third party/private elevator inspectors has been embraced in Broward County and to date has expanded to twenty-seven (27) registered third party/private elevator inspectors, the comprehensive information is on our website and Standard Operating Procedures for "Registering, Monitoring and Terminating Third-Party Certified Elevator Inspectors" have been created.
- Improved outreach and education to increase awareness amongst elevator certificate holders regarding inspection responsibilities is performed on a continuous basis via simplified information on our website as well as elevator customer service representatives making contact via phone, e-mail, mailing letters, invoices and copies of inspection reports.

Please find attached updated supporting documentation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (954) 765-4400 x 9848.

ec: Leonard Vialpando, Director, Environmental Licensing and Building Permitting Division
Michael Auch, Special Agent, Broward Office of the Inspector General