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## **Special Inspectors to Conduct Elevator/Amusement Ride Inspections Beginning Sept. 1**

On September 1, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation will change the way it inspects elevators and amusement rides in this state to create more accountability and improve safety.

At that time, inspections will no longer be conducted by LLR inspectors. They will be done by special certified inspectors, who will be licensed by LLR, but not work directly for the state. LLR will employ a team of auditors who will travel the state to randomly review the work done by the special certified inspectors.

“Under the current system, only one set of eyes passes over each elevator or amusement ride,” LLR Director Catherine Templeton said. “We rely on our inspectors to be perfect every time out. With the changes we are making to the program, we will enhance the process with our team of auditors because they will look behind special inspectors to ensure they are complying with the regulations. We think this measure of accountability will discourage complacency and errors by inspectors, and thereby improve the overall safety of elevators and amusement rides.”

State law already allows for special inspectors, and many businesses have used these inspectors to conduct elevators and amusement ride inspections for years.

Some of LLR’s current elevator and amusement ride inspectors have applied for and been hired as auditors, some are expected to be hired as certified special inspectors by firms already performing inspections, and we anticipate others will choose to become self-employed as certified special inspectors.

LLR will be notifying all elevator and amusement park operators about the change and providing them with a list of currently certified special inspectors.