

## Technical Bulletin

**Bulletin number:** 08-001 **Date:** October 17, 2008  
**Attention:** Installation Manager, Service Manager  
**Topic:** Auxiliary Brake used as Emergency Brake – life extension  
**Criticality:** Recommendation – This action is recommended for optimum life and performance of your elevator equipment.  
**Equipment type:** Traction control systems (V900, Prodigy) using auxiliary brakes as the emergency braking device

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**Description:** For some hoist machines, the engineering data / product specifications do not indicate a requirement for a reduced “brake hold voltage” for the machine brake(s). Only a “brake pick voltage” is specified.

In spite of this, technical feedback from field installations has indicated that the addition of control circuitry to reduce the voltage to a “brake hold voltage” will extend the life of the brake coil.

In some installations, elevator machines with multiple brake calipers (with associated separate brake coils) have designated the auxiliary brake(s) to be used as the Emergency Braking Device (as called for by applicable elevator safety codes). EC controllers manufactured with a separate control circuit for the auxiliary brake(s) may not have been designed to reduce the applied brake voltage once the auxiliary brake had fully picked. *Note: This issue applies only to auxiliary brakes that are controlled separately as the emergency braking device.*

**Recommended action:** Install an upgrade kit (available from Elevator Controls Corporation) which includes a timing circuit to reduce the voltage/current applied to the auxiliary brake coil after the brake has fully picked. The circuitry includes a field-adjustable timer that should be adjusted in accordance with the characteristics of the specific brake.

An upgrade kit is available free of charge for the affected Elevator Controls control systems. To request an upgrade kit, please contact Technical Support and provide this Technical Bulletin Number (08-001) and the associated job number(s). An EC representative will evaluate the need for an upgrade, and will process the transaction if appropriate and applicable.

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