the switch, verify that the escalator steps are within sight and that no one is on the steps. Where the escalator can be operated in both directions, check the switch operation in both directions. Where there is more than one key-operated start switch, the function and location of all switches shall be checked.

For units installed under A17.1-1996 and later editions, verify that the start switch operating positions are properly marked. Check that the key is only removable in the “RUN” position. Turn the switch from “RUN” to either “UP” or “DOWN” and quickly let go of the key. The switch must return to the “RUN” position. Repeat for the other direction of travel. Next turn the switch to either the “UP” or “DOWN” position. Stop the unit with the emergency stop button and keep the switch in the “UP” or “DOWN” position. The unit must not restart. Repeat for the other direction of travel.

(b) Emergency Stop Switches. Operate the emergency stop switches/buttons and verify that the escalator stops. Also, verify that the stop switch cannot start the escalator. If automatic starting devices are provided (pre-A17.1a-1988), check that they will not function after the stop switch is operated. Verify proper labeling and signals where required. The requirements for emergency stop switches in prior editions of the Code are as follows:

(1) A17.1-1955: An emergency stop button or other type of manually operated switch, marked “STOP BUTTON” or “STOP SWITCH” shall be conspicuously and accessibly located at or near the top and bottom landings of each escalator and shall be protected from accidental contact.

(2) A17.1-1960: An emergency stop button or other type of manually operated switch with a red button or handle shall be accessibly located at or near the top and bottom landings of each escalator and shall be protected from accidental operation.

(3) A17.1-1965 added the following definition of accessible: An escalator stop button with an unlocked cover over it that can be readily lifted or pushed aside shall be considered accessible.

(4) A17.1a-1979 required that the stop button be located in the right-hand newel base facing the escalator at both landings. Handles were no longer allowed.

(5) A17.1b-1983 and later editions require a readily movable self-closing transparent cover and an 80 dBA signal when the cover is moved. The cover should be marked “EMERGENCY STOP.” The button should be in the upper-right quadrant when facing the escalator for high-deck balustrades; for low-deck balustrades, it must be below the handrail height. Remote stop switches are prohibited under A17.1b-1983 and later editions.

(6) A17.3: An accessible red stop button marked “EMERGENCY STOP” must be on the right-hand side of each entrance. Remote stop switches are prohibited.

(c) Tandem Operation. For escalators under A17.1-1981 and later editions and A17.3, operated in tandem, where a common landing is shared by two