

EM/LE/55 Pt. II

895 8649

21 July 1994

All Registered Escalator Contractors
All Registered Escalator Engineers

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 14/94
Main Drive Chain of Escalators

In a recent accident in May 94, the main drive chain, which coupled the driving machine to the driving wheel of the escalator steps, of a fully loaded upward running escalator, was broken and caused injuries to several passengers. The escalator was only subsequently stopped by the operation of an auxiliary brake.

The seriousness of this type of accident was conveyed to you in my previous Circular No. 3/91. However, with the occurrence of the above accident, I have to emphasize again that the main drive chain, being a very important component, must be regularly examined and tested in accordance with the escalator manufacturer's recommendation. You are reminded to check the main drive chain and related chain safety devices of all the escalators under your maintenance and ensure that they are in good and sound condition.

Furthermore your attention is particularly drawn to Section E Part 4 Clause 8.6.1(a) of the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators which states -

"Escalators (excluding non-inclined passenger conveyors) shall be equipped with auxiliary brake(s) acting immediately, or via gears or shaft, on the main driving shaft for steps, pallets or belt in the conditions stipulated in Clause 8.6.2, if

- (a) the coupling of the operation brake and the driving wheels of the steps, pallets or the belt is not accomplished by shafts or gear wheels".

You are required to ensure that all relevant escalators tendered for on or after 18.3.1994 shall be installed with auxiliary brake in accordance with the above clause, or a proper alternative device shall be provided in accordance with Circular No. 3/94 within the grace period.

I take this opportunity to further advise you that in April 94 there was also another escalator accident involving the breakage of a driving chain of the handrail. Hence, you are reminded to ensure this type of chains be maintained in good working condition.

Please find attached a survey sheet regarding replacement criteria for main drive chain. I should be grateful if you would complete the sheet(s) to provide information of all relevant escalator models under your maintenance and return to this Department for our reference.

Your co-operation will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

(M. S. KWOK)
for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

WLC/YWL/MSK/ey

SURVEY SHEET
Replacement Criteria for
Main Drive Chain of Escalator

1. Registered Escalator Contractor:

2. Escalator Manufacturer:

3. Escalator Model No.:

4. Particulars of the Escalator Model (e.g. rise, speed, angle, width, etc.):

5. Specifications of the Main Drive Chain:

6. Criteria of replacement (including service life expectancy) for Main Drive Chain: