

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)023

(Question Serial No. 0392)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

With respect to Programme (2) Mechanical Installations Safety, comprehensive regulatory framework and systematic approach are implemented in the regulation of railway and tramway safety. Please provide the following information:

1. Please list out the details of the modification to railway facilities/systems over the past year, according to the cause of modification.
2. The target number of inspections of railway facilities/systems increased from 140 in 2013 to 168 in 2014. It is anticipated that the number of inspections will reach 175 in 2015. Please list out the number of inspections for the past three years and the coming year according to the type of railway facilities/systems and railway lines. Apart from the commissioning of new railway lines, please advise if there is any increase in the number of inspections for existing lines and name those railway lines.
3. Please list out the date, location, cause, casualty and service disruption for those incidents investigated over the past year, according to the cause of incidents.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 20)

Reply:

1. In the past year, submissions made by the MTR Corporation Limited on major modification to existing railway facilities/systems as received by government departments are summarised in the following table:

	Cause of major modification	Details of major modification
1	To enhance accessibility to stations or cater for nearby new developments	1. Addition and modification of station entrances and accesses connecting to stations 2. Addition and replacement of passenger lifts

	Cause of major modification	Details of major modification
2	To cater for the development of new railway lines and integration of these new lines with existing lines	1. Upgrade of existing traction power supply system 2. Tunnel modification works 3. Station modification works
3	To enhance passengers' experience when travelling on MTR	1. Provision of toilets 2. Station layout improvement works 3. Provision of additional telecommunication equipment rooms

2. The numbers of inspections for each railway line conducted by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past three years are set out below:

	Number of Inspections		
	2012	2013	2014
Existing Railway Lines			
Island Line	21	26	16
Kwun Tong Line	22	29	28
Tsuen Wan Line	25	12	12
Tseung Kwan O Line	7	15	19
East Rail Line	19	12	25
West Rail Line	10	8	13
Ma On Shan Line	4	5	6
Airport Express/ Tung Chung Line/ Disneyland Resort Line	8	9	15
Light Rail	9	20	15
Automated People Mover in the Airport	4	4	4
New Railway Project			
West Island Line	-	-	15
Total:	129	140	168

The number of inspections in 2015 is anticipated to be 175, of which 20 inspections are for new railway projects, and 155 inspections are for existing railway lines and the Automated People Mover in the Hong Kong International Airport. In line with international practices, the EMSD adopts a “risk-based approach” in regulating railway safety: attention would be given to railway systems and facilities the failure of which might pose a higher risk to the safe operation of the railway system based on track record. The EMSD would review safety risks in existing railway lines from time to time, taking into consideration their patronage and incident record, and arrange safety inspections accordingly.

3. In 2014, there were incidents occurred at various parts of the railway network, involving different railway lines and stations and leading to service disruption, which ranged from zero minute (i.e. no service disruption was caused) to 168 minutes.

The number of safety-related incidents investigated by the EMSD in 2014 is set out below:

Cause of Incident	Number of Cases	Number of Injuries
Equipment failure	66	1
Staff behaviour	13	0
Passenger or public behaviour	5	1
External factors	9	23*
Total	93	25

*Twenty-two injuries are attributed to an incident on 21 November 2014 when a Light Rail vehicle collided with a double-deck bus in Tuen Mun.

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