

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)085

(Question Serial No. 1731)

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 Development

Question:

Regarding lift and escalator, please provide the following information and reply:

1. Please provide the manpower and the respective ranks in the existing establishments in various government departments responsible for regulating lift and escalator safety in the past three years and the estimated figures for 2016-17.
2. Please provide the number of lifts according to the following age groups: 10 years, 20 years, 30 years, 40 years and 50 years or above.
3. Please provide the number of escalators according to the following age groups: five years, ten years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years and 30 years or above.
4. Please provide the numbers of lifts and escalators where replacement works for major components (including replacement of suspension ropes, main drive shafts, etc.) have been carried out in the past three years and the estimated numbers for 2016-17.
5. Please provide the relevant period and criteria presently adopted by various government departments when carrying out examination and replacement of major components (including replacement of suspension ropes, main drive shafts, etc.) for lifts and escalators in public works.
6. Please provide the numbers of breakdowns of lifts and escalators in the past three years and the estimated figures for 2016-17.

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (Member Question No. 011)

Reply:

1. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for regulating lift and escalator safety in Hong Kong. In 2013-14, a team of seven professional engineers and 19 inspectors was responsible for regulating lift and escalator safety. In 2014, the establishment was increased by one professional engineer. Nine inspectors were also added temporarily for two years. The team therefore comprised eight professional engineers and 28 inspectors in 2014-15 and 2015-16; eight professional engineers and 19 inspectors in 2016-17.

2. The age distribution of lifts is given in the table below.

Age (years)	Number of lifts
51 or above	2 849
41 – 50	4 644
31 – 40	10 278
21 – 30	15 460
11 – 20	18 149
10 or below	12 271

3. The age distribution of escalators is given in the table below.

Age (years)	Number of escalators
31 or above	1 213
26 – 30	1 039
21 – 25	1 161
16 – 20	1 461
11 – 15	1 300
6 – 10	1 529
5 or below	1 222

4. Major alterations such as replacement of driving machine, change in number or size of wire rope, etc. of a lift or escalator are set out in Schedule 1 of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (the Ordinance). The registered contractors are required to report their responsible major alterations to the EMSD.

The numbers of major alterations of lifts and escalators in the past three years are given in the table below.

Year	2013	2014	2015
Number of Major Alterations	1 548	1 939	1 584

The estimated number of major alterations of lifts and escalators in 2016 is at the same level as 2015.

5. The Ordinance stipulates the minimum requirements for periodic maintenance and examination of lifts and escalators, which are summarised in the table below.

	Maintenance, Not less than the frequency of once every	Examination, Not less than the frequency of once every	Load Test, Not less than the frequency of once every
Lifts	1 month	12 months	5 years
Escalators	1 month	6 months	Not required

In addition to periodic maintenance and examinations, the Ordinance also stipulates that, after major alterations, the lifts and escalators and their associated equipment or machinery should be thoroughly examined by registered engineers to ensure that the altered parts are in safe working order.

To provide technical guidance for the public and the trade, the EMSD has published the Code of Practice for Lift Works and Escalators Works under the Ordinance. The Code of Practice provides guidance on the maintenance of lifts and escalators, which includes the criteria for replacement of suspension ropes of a lift. In compliance with the requirements in the Ordinance and making reference to the Code of Practice, owners of lifts and escalators (including government departments), together with the registered lift/escalator contractors engaged by them, shall determine the exact maintenance and examination frequencies and component replacement intervals to suit the operational environment and physical conditions of individual lifts and escalators.

6. Since there is no statutory requirement under the Ordinance for service breakdowns of lifts and escalators to be reported to the EMSD, the EMSD does not have figures of those breakdowns.

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