

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1282)

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 (Alfred W H SIT)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

On 25 March 2017, a serious escalator incident happened at Langham Place in Mong Kok, causing 18 injuries. Since then, there have been various minor escalator incidents across the territory, arousing public concern about the safety of long escalators. Would the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) please advise this Committee of the following:

- a) What are the total numbers of incidents arising from faulty escalators and the total casualties resulted from 2015 to 2017? Please list by year.
- b) How many escalator inspections were conducted by the EMSD annually from 2015 to 2017? What was the average time spent on each inspection? How many escalators were confirmed to be in need of repair after inspection? What was the total expenditure involved?
- c) What is the provision earmarked for escalator safety inspection and associated repair works to be conducted by the EMSD in 2018-19? Are there any manpower shortage problems regarding the inspection and repair works?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 25)

Reply:

- a) The number of faulty escalator incidents causing passenger casualties and the number of passenger injuries involved from 2015 to 2017 (*) are listed in the following table:

Year	2015	2016	2017
Number of faulty escalator incidents causing passenger casualties (**)	7	3	2
Number of passenger injuries involved	12	3	19

(*) *There was no death case involved.*

(**) *Incidents relating to passenger behaviour (e.g. loss of balance) and external factors (e.g. tiny metallic objects, stroller wheels, etc. being wedged in the space between the step and combplate) are not included.*

- b) The number of audit inspections for escalators conducted by the EMSD under the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) and the number of escalators confirmed to be in need of repair after such inspections from 2015 to 2017 are listed in the following table:

Year	2015	2016	2017
Number of audit inspections for escalators conducted by the EMSD	1 710	1 363	2 430
Number of escalators confirmed to be in need of repair after audit inspections	51	131	23

The time spent on each audit inspection varied and on average each inspection took about one hour to complete. The duration of each audit inspection depends on its scope which differs in various stages of escalator works, such as during routine maintenance and annual examination, after major alteration works, on completion of new installation works, during incident investigation, etc. The EMSD has no access to the cost data of the subsequent repair works, which is commercial information between the Responsible Persons (RPs) for escalators and the registered escalator contractors (RCs) concerned.

- c) The estimated total expenditure of the EMSD for lift and escalator safety in 2018-19 is \$45.1 million which covers the whole range of work to be carried out collectively by a dedicated team of the EMSD. However, there is no breakdown of the estimated expenditure for carrying out escalator audit inspections alone. The EMSD has sufficient manpower for carrying out audit inspections and associated regulatory works for lift and escalator safety, and would flexibly deploy resources to suit the needs when there is any change in service demand. With regard to the repair works to escalators arising from the audit inspections, they are carried out by the RCs engaged by the RPs, and the EMSD has no access to the cost data of such repair works, which is commercial information between the RPs and the RCs concerned. With regard to the manpower for the escalator inspection and repair works, according to the regular manpower survey results and manpower forecast conducted by the EMSD, it is estimated that there is sufficient manpower in the trade to carry out the works. The EMSD would continue to monitor the manpower situation and work closely with the trade to ensure adequate manpower supply.

- End -