

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)095

(Question Serial No. 1524)

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:

Escalator accidents occur from time to time, which are partly due to poor maintenance and improper use by passengers. Will the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) further strengthen the monitoring of maintenance companies and step up public education to raise the safety awareness of the public in the future? Will the EMSD consider changing the habit of the public of walking on escalators and promoting standing on both sides of the escalator?

Asked by: Hon YIU Si-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been adopting a risk-based strategy to conduct audit inspections of lifts and escalators to identify any non-compliance with the requirements. This approach takes into account a host of factors, including the equipment age and type of installation, complaints received, incidents happened, change-over of maintenance contractors and performance of contractors involved. Prosecution/disciplinary actions will be taken against the registered persons concerned if non-compliance with the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) is found during the department's audit inspections.

The EMSD will continue to enhance its risk-based strategy in selecting inspection targets. In 2018, a total of 15 409 inspections of lifts and escalators were conducted, representing an increase of 37% over 2017. The targeted total number of inspections in 2019 will further rise to 28 900, as a result of the department's effort to step up the surveillance of aged lifts and escalators.

The EMSD has been carrying out public education through various means (e.g. promotional videos, leaflets, posters and publicity talks) to raise the safety awareness of the public, including promulgation of the habit of standing still on escalators and holding the handrail. Visits to kindergartens and elderly centres have also been carried out to disseminate the message of proper use of escalators to children and the elderly to enhance their safety

awareness. The EMSD will continue to explore further means to promote good practice in using escalators with a view to reducing occurrence of accidents.

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