

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)096

(Question Serial No. 2069)

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:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) plans to substantially increase the number of inspections of lifts and escalators from 15 409 in 2018 to 28 900 in 2019, representing 36.3% of the number of existing lifts and escalators. In this regard:

1. What are the amount of manpower mainly responsible for the inspections at present, as well as the posts and expenditure involved? Is the relevant manpower expected to increase in 2019-20? If yes, what are the additional number of staff as well as the posts and expenditure involved?
2. Has the EMSD formulated an inspection timetable for lifts and escalators in the territory? If yes, what are the details, including the criteria adopted by the EMSD in determining which lifts and escalators should be accorded priority for inspection?
3. What measures will be taken by the EMSD to enhance the safety level of existing lifts and escalators which are yet to be inspected to avoid accidents? What are the details of and the manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant measures?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

1. At present, the administration and enforcement of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618) (the Ordinance) are collectively undertaken by a dedicated team consisting of three Senior Engineers, 11 Engineers, two Senior Inspectors, 18 Inspectors and 12 Assistant Inspectors in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD). As the dedicated team is responsible for a number of tasks during its daily operation, no breakdown of the expenditure on individual item of work such as inspection of lifts and escalators is available. In fact, to step up the inspection of aged lifts and escalators, the establishment of the dedicated team was strengthened by one Senior Engineer, two Engineers, one Inspector and six Assistant Inspectors in 2018. In 2019, we will set up another dedicated team comprising one Senior Engineer, one Engineer, two Inspectors, two Assistant Inspectors and one Clerical Assistant to cope with additional inspections of aged lifts brought about by modernisation works under the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme. The

estimated expenditure involved in setting up the new dedicated team is around \$4.7 million in 2019-20.

2. The EMSD has adopted a risk-based approach in selecting lifts and escalators for inspection each year. 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.

3. In addition to carrying out scheduled and surprise inspections to lifts and escalators in the territory, the EMSD has also implemented the following measures to enhance the safety level of existing lifts and escalators:

In respect of lifts

- (i) Contractors are required to conduct at least two special maintenance works every year for the important protective components (including brakes, traction machines and landing doors) of aged lifts that have yet to undergo modernisation works. Contractors are also required to submit to the EMSD the scheduled date, time and inspection results of the special maintenance works via an online platform; and
- (ii) Contractors are required to record maintenance works in logbooks with an improved format to list the important protective components involved in each maintenance to facilitate more effective supervision of the contractors' maintenance works by the EMSD and the responsible persons for the lifts concerned.

In respect of escalators

- (iii) Brake tests with load are required to be carried out to all escalators (except those with a rise of less than 2.5 m) at intervals not exceeding five years to improve equipment reliability.

The above measures came into effect on 1 February 2019 and are being monitored by the dedicated team responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Ordinance as mentioned in paragraph 1 above. As the dedicated team is responsible for a number of tasks during its daily operation, no breakdown of the expenditure on individual item of work such as monitoring the above measures is available.

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