

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)143

(Question Serial No. 3697)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Alfred W H SIT)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- (1) Please advise this Committee of the current total number of lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, with a breakdown by age groups of 10 or below, 11-20, 21-30, and 31 or above in tabular form.
- (2) Please list the increase in number and percentage of lifts and escalators over the past five years in tabular form.
- (3) Please advise this Committee of the current total number of qualified registered lift workers in Hong Kong, and tabulate their distribution by A, B and C licences.
- (4) Please list the increase in number and percentage of registered lift workers over the past five years in tabular form.
- (5) Please advise this Committee whether publicity or talks were conducted to boost the number of lift workers over the past five years. If yes, what are the effectiveness and the expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YEUNG Alvin (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (1) As at the end of February 2020, there were totally 69 457 lifts and 9 930 escalators in Hong Kong. Their age distribution is tabulated below:

Age	Number of lifts	Number of escalators
10 or below	13 471	2 366
11-20	16 551	2 939
21-30	15 864	2 555
31 or above	23 571	2 070
Total:	69 457	9 930

- (2) The increase in number and percentage of lifts and escalators in the past five years is tabulated below:

Year	Lifts			Escalators		
	Total number	Change over the preceding year		Total number	Change over the preceding year	
		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
2015	63 561	+1 166	+1.9%	8 925	+159	+1.8%
2016	64 930	+1 369	+2.2%	9 156	+231	+2.6%
2017	66 291	+1 361	+2.1%	9 379	+223	+2.4%
2018	67 850	+1 559	+2.4%	9 659	+280	+3.0%
2019	69 219	+1 369	+2.0%	9 905	+246	+2.5%

- (3) As at the end of February 2020, there were totally 5 723 registered lift workers in Hong Kong. Their distribution by class of works is tabulated below:

Class of works	Number of registered lift workers ^{Note}
Installation / Demolition (i.e. Class A)	4 009
Maintenance (i.e. Class B)	5 234
Examination (i.e. Class C)	4 387
Total:	5 723

Note: Workers can possess registration for one or more classes of works at the same time.

- (4) The increase in number and percentage of registered lift workers in the past five years is tabulated below:

Year	Registered lift workers		
	Total number	Change over the preceding year	
		Number	Percentage
2015	5 247	+97	+1.9%
2016	5 354	+107	+2.0%
2017	5 550	+196	+3.7%
2018	5 559	+9	+0.2%
2019	5 687	+128	+2.3%

- (5) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is always committed to promoting the electrical and mechanical (E&M) trade (including the lift and escalator industry) and nurturing E&M personnel. In each of the past five years, the EMSD organised career expos, promotional and recruitment activities and talks in collaboration with the trade to give the youth and people outside the industry a better understanding of the E&M trade, and introduce different job opportunities to those who wish to join the industry.

The EMSD also regularly reviews the manpower situation in the market through the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee and meetings with the trade. In recent years, the EMSD has been working with the trade to implement the following measures to attract more new blood to the lift/escalator industry:

- Since 2014, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) and the Construction Industry Council (CIC) has introduced the “Earn & Learn” Scheme. The number of new apprentices enrolled each year continued to increase, from about 70 per year in previous years to more than 200 in 2015. From 2016 to 2019, over 250 new apprentices were enrolled yearly;
- The VTC and the University of Hong Kong School of Professional and Continuing Education launched two different courses related to lifts and escalators in 2016 for practising workers to acquire the required academic qualifications to meet the registration requirements of registered lift/escalator workers;
- Since 2016, the EMSD has invested over \$600 million in recruiting more than 1 000 technician trainees in five years to provide new blood for the entire E&M industry (including the lift and escalator industry) so as to cope with future challenges;
- The EMSD and the trade jointly produced promotional videos in early 2018 to attract newcomers to the industry. The videos have been uploaded to the EMSD website for public viewing; and
- The EMSD collaborated with the CIC to launch the “Intermediate Tradesman Collaborative Training Scheme” for the lift industry in 2019 to provide training and financial support for those who wish to join the lift industry.

Through the above-mentioned measures and related publicity, the number of registered lift workers increased from 5 247 in 2015 to 5 687 in 2019, representing an increase of about 8.4%. In addition to registered workers, the number of general workers in the industry also increased from 1 452 in 2015 to 1 894 in 2019, representing an increase of about 30.4%. General workers can apply for registration as registered lift workers after receiving relevant training and accumulating sufficient experience. The overall number of lift workers increased from 6 699 in 2015 to 7 581 in 2019, representing an increase of about 13.2%.

As the staff responsible for the above work also need to handle other areas of work, the EMSD is unable to provide a separate breakdown of the expenditure incurred in the publicity work.

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