

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will step up inspection and enforcement actions, public education and publicity efforts to enhance the safety of lifts and escalators in 2009-10. What is the establishment in EMSD to handle these works in 2009-10? What is the associated expenditure and the work plan in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon. KAM Nai-wai

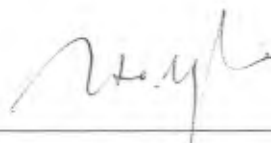
Reply:

In 2009-10, EMSD will continue to step up the level of inspection from one-out-of-ten in the past to one-out-of-seven at present. As a result, the number of inspection of lifts and escalators in year 2009-10 will be increased from 7 502 to 9 930. In this regard, an additional amount of \$3 million will be redeployed within the Development Bureau in 2009-10 to the Department to acquire additional manpower of one engineer and seven inspectors to take on the additional inspection and enforcement activities.

The establishment and strength of civil service staff for lift and escalator safety in 2009-10 are 28 and 36 respectively. The staff strength has included the additional manpower resources (one Electrical & Mechanical Engineer and seven Inspectors) deployed to strengthen the lift inspection team.

In regard to the new initiatives on public education and publicity to enhance the lift and escalator safety, the Department will deploy existing manpower resources to take on the additional workload, and no additional expenditure will be incurred. The public education and publicity work plan in 2009-10 will include briefing to District Councils on the enhancement measures on lift and escalator safety, holding public seminars for lift and escalator owners and property management agents on managing lift and escalator maintenance contracts, ambassador visits to schools and distributing publications on safe use of lifts and escalators.

Signature



Name in block letters

HO KWONG WAI

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

20 March 2009