

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

Would the Government please advise this Committee:

- (a) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is required to monitor the safety of different mechanical installations. In view of the technological advancement in the production of relevant installations and their increasing diversities, has the Administration, in the regulatory process, come across any mechanical installation that the engineers in the Department are not familiar with? How to deal with such situation? Have other experts been invited to participate in the process?
- (b) How does the Administration ensure that the contractors of mechanical installations would follow the statutory requirements in reporting incidents to the Department? Under what circumstances would the contractors be required to report the incidents? How would these reports be followed up?

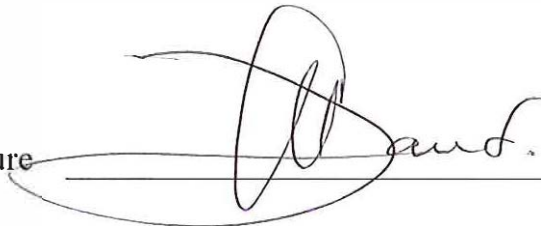
Asked by: Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply:

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has put in place a human resource management plan for sustainable development and enhancement of in-house expertise with regard to the various mechanical installations being regulated to ensure effective operation of its regulatory role. Over the years, EMSD has built up a team of engineers and inspectors capable of undertaking the regulatory functions. Apart from on-job training, EMSD staff regularly attend relevant local

and overseas training courses, and international conferences to keep abreast of the latest technological advancement. EMSD maintains close contact with overseas and mainland authorities to keep track of the latest market development. Wherever necessary, EMSD would also engage independent expert support, both local and overseas, on specific issues.

- (b) At present, for mechanical installations relating to lifts, escalators, builders' lift, tower working platforms, aerial ropeways, amusement rides and railways/trams, owners and/or contractors responsible for maintenance of mechanical installations are required to report occurrence of safety related incidents to the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services in accordance with the relevant ordinances and regulations governing the respective mechanical installations. In general, incidents involving death, personal injury, damage to properties, failure of major components, or serious service disruption, as applicable, should be reported. Failure to comply with relevant reporting provisions in the concerned ordinances and regulations could be an offence. To date, contractors and owners are observed to have complied with the reporting requirements. Separately, upon receipt of an incident report, EMSD would carry out an independent investigation to ascertain if there is any violation of relevant provisions of the concerned ordinances or regulations, and would consider taking appropriate enforcement actions. EMSD would carefully study the incident reports to identify the causes leading to the incidents and ensure that all necessary mitigation and/or improvement measures are implemented to prevent recurrence of similar incidents.

Signature 

Name in block letters

CHAN Fan

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

27 February 2012