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21 July 1995

All Registered Escalator Contractors

Dear Sirs,

**Circular No. 13/95**  
**Deflector Device at Skirting of Escalators**

In some recent accidents, passengers riding on escalators sustained foot injuries from nipping between the skirting and steps as they inattentively placed their feet too close to the step sides and against the skirt panels.

Your attention is drawn to Clause 1.1.5.5(c), Part 4, Section E of the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators which states that:-

*"The possibility of trapping between skirting and steps shall be reduced by the use of a deflector device, for example in the form of suitably placed (see Fig. 7) brush bristles on a skirt guard, which shall be able to minimize the likelihood of contact with the possible trapping point by causing feet to be more safely positioned, loose clothing to be kept clear or should someone fall on the escalator by deflecting fingers from the trapping area."*

Having regard to the current requirement and with a view to enhancing escalator safety, you are requested to consider the feasibility of retrofitting suitable skirt guards to those previously installed escalators which have not been provided with the feature. Wherever it is feasible to retrofit the

skirt guards, it would be appreciated if you could advise the concerned escalator owners on the matter and urge them to provide such additional safety provision.

Thank you for your attention and concerted effort in enhancing safety.

Yours faithfully,

(G.M.W. CHUI)  
for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

c.c. AD/BS  
D of Housing (Attn.: TS/1)

YKH/tp