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11 November 1996

All Registered Lift Contractors

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 14/96
General Freight Lift

To prevent overloading of general freight lifts, please remind the lift owners that in Building (Lifts) Regulation 47 and Section C of the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators, it is stated that for a general freight lift:-

- (a) the loading in the lift will normally be evenly distributed over the floor of the car;
- (b) the weight of any single piece of freight, or the weight of any single truck, which may be used in the loading of the lift, and the load therein, will be not more than a quarter of the rated load of the lift;
- (c) the lift will be loaded only manually or by means of trucks which are not driven by any form of power.

It has been brought to my attention that in some incidents, the usage of general freight lifts was abused by loading of goods, or pallets of goods, the weight of a single piece/pallet of which was more than a quarter of the rated load of the lift. Similarly in some other cases, the goods were stacked up in the lift car such that the weight of a single pile of goods was more than a quarter of the rated load. These practices have violated the requirement on the usage of general freight lifts and may lead to dangerous situations.

In order to prevent improper loading of general freight lifts as described above, please explain the above requirements to the owners of such lifts under your maintenance and request them to display instructions (in Chinese and English) inside the lift cars and at the landings that a single piece of goods should not exceed xx kg (a quarter of the rated load of the lift).

You should also ensure that the overload device -

- (a) is fail safe i.e. should the device or the related mechanism become damaged or if the contacts become dirty or wires break the lift will act as if it is overloaded and not operate; and
- (b) will not be damaged when the lift is grossly overloaded.

Limited copies of 'Overloading a Lift is Dangerous' posters and stickers are available for display in general freight lifts. Your necessary attention and action would be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

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

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

WLC/GMWC/tp