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To All Registered Lift/Escalator Contractors &
All Registered Lift/Escalator Engineers

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 4/2003
Tests and Examinations of Lifts/Escalators by
Registered Lift/Escalator Engineers

Registered lift/escalator engineers have been playing an important role in ascertaining the safety of the public in using lifts/escalators. Under the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (the Ordinance), they are assigned with duties to examine and test lift/escalator works to ensure that the design and construction of the lifts/escalators comply with the Ordinance and that the lifts/escalators concerned are in safe working order.

In certifying that the lift/escalator and all such machinery and equipment, and the safety equipment provided for the lift/escalator, as the case may be, is in safe working order, the registered lift/escalator engineer is required to have personally carried out the required examination and/or testing, and be satisfied with the lift/escalator works. We, however, have observed in occasions failures of registered lift/escalator engineers to fulfil their duties.

A few months ago, a registered lift engineer was found to have knowingly certified the carrying out by himself of examination and testing of a lift on a date he was not in the territory. A charge was laid against the registered lift engineer for his commitment of section 28(1)(b) of the Ordinance. The registered lift engineer pleaded guilty and was fined \$2,200 by the Court.

Registered lift/escalator contractors, being the employers of the registered lift/escalator engineers, are obliged to take measures to ensure tests and examinations of lifts/escalators are properly carried out. They should from time to time review their operational systems in order to be able to closely monitor and to facilitate their registered lift/escalator engineers to discharge those duties as stipulated in the Ordinance.

At last, I want to express my concern over the above case and take the opportunity to remind you that it is an offence under section 28(1)(b) of the Ordinance to sign any such certificate knowing it to be false in a material particular. I must stress that any person guilty of such an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine of \$5,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months, and disciplinary actions pursuant to sections 9 and 11G of the Ordinance, as the case may be, may also be taken.

Yours faithfully,

LAW Yu-wing
(Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer / General Legislation)
for Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

c.c. The Director of Housing,
The Director of Architectural Services
The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association
The Registered Elevator & Escalator Contractors Association Ltd.,
The International Association of Elevator Engineers
The Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees