

Ref.: (4) in EM/LE/55

Tel.: 5-8958651

Electrical and Mechanical
Services Department,
98, Caroline Hill Road,
Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong.

7 March 1989

To: All Registered Lift Contractors and
Lift Engineers

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 4/89
Insufficient Safety Devices for
Car/Landing Doors of Old Lifts

Recently, there were two lift accidents, all involving lift doors.

In one accident, the lowest landing door was accidentally opened though the lift car was not in that unlocking zone. A blind victim fell into the lift pit and sustained serious injury. The maintenance contractor claimed that the accident was caused by the jamming of the locking element by certain foreign object. However, inadequate checking and adjustment might be one reason as well.

In the other accident, a young man riding in a lift which was installed in 1965 tried to stop the closing door by pushing the door panel with his own right hand. Unfortunately, his hand was struck by the door and sustained serious injury. Owing to the poor adjustment of the electro-mechanical interlocking system, the lift could ascend/descend even when the gap between the door panels was beyond 50mm.

It was also revealed recently during site inspections to various old installations that safety provisions for car doors were inadequate. In view of this, I should be grateful if you could carry out a thorough inspection to all old lifts under your maintenance and inform the owners with copy to this department whenever any of the following shortfall was discovered, suggesting necessary improvement.

- (a) Car door without safety edge or similar safety device and control panel without 'Door Open' button;
- (b) Lift without a positive device to prove the landing/car doors closed and locked;
- (c) The locking element is subject to external interference that affects the integrity of the safety system.

Yours faithfully,

(Y.W. LAW)

for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

TPS/YWL/sy