## Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

## CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

**DEVB(W)126** 

Question Serial No.

0313

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical

Subhead (No. & title):

Services Department

<u>Programme</u>: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Development

## Question:

According to the indicators in Programme (2), there were a total of 71 746 lifts and escalators in 2011 and 72 806 lifts and escalators in 2012. The numbers of lifts and escalators inspected in 2011 and 2012 were 9 107 and 9 173 respectively. The numbers of lift and escalator incidents investigated in 2011 and 2012 were 268 and 272 respectively.

- (a) In the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012), how were the lifts and escalators classified? Please list out the lifts and escalators according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors in Hong Kong that they belonged to.
- (b) Please list out the lifts and escalators inspected by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012) according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors in Hong Kong that they belonged to. What are the manpower and expenditures involved in EMSD's inspection works?
- (c) Please list out the incidents investigated by EMSD in the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012) according to the lift and escalator companies and contractors that they belonged to. What are the manpower and expenditures involved in EMSD's incident investigation?
- (d) How many employees are there in the lift and escalator industry? What are the employees' average years of experience? What is the expected number of new employees to be registered in the next year?
- (e) Is the Administration aware of the average salaries of employees in the lift and escalator industry? If yes, what are the average salaries of relevant posts in the past three years (i.e. 2010 to 2012)? If no, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

(a) The total numbers of lifts and escalators in the past three years are summarised in Table 1, which are maintained by 45 registered lift contractors, out of which 32 are also registered escalator contractors. The list of registered lift and escalator contractors can be found on EMSD web site <a href="http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/leo\_reg\_cntrctr.shtml">http://www.emsd.gov.hk/emsd/eng/pps/leo\_reg\_cntrctr.shtml</a>.

Table 1: Numbers of Lifts and Escalators

Year	20	10	20	11	20	12
Sector	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public
Total no. of lifts	50 723	7 860	51 191	8 054	52 212	8 144
Total no. of escalators	7 451	486	7 459	774	7 642	828

Note – The Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 327), which was repealed on 17 December 2012, only covered lifts and escalators in the private sector. Lifts and escalators under the control of Government and Housing Authority are classified under the public sector.

- (b) The inspections conducted by EMSD in the past three years have covered all registered lift and escalator contractors providing maintenance services for lifts and escalators. The manpower involved in conducting inspections and incident investigations for lifts and escalators includes one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 Inspectors. The expenditures involved in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 are \$13.5 million, \$14.3 million and \$15.1 million respectively.
- (c) Most of lift and escalators incidents are related to personal behaviours such as passenger's hand being too close to the lift doors which are not classified according to the registered contractors. The incidents classified under the respective registered contractors are those related to failure of equipment, mainly involving defective suspension ropes and electrical and mechanical components. They are tabulated in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Number of Incidents Related to the Failure of Equipment

Year	2010	2011	2012
Sigma Elevator (HK) Ltd.	2	3	0
Hitachi Elevator Engineering Co. (HK) Ltd.	3	0	0
Chevalier (HK) Ltd.	4	2	1
Schindler Lifts (Hong Kong) Ltd.	6	3	5
Otis Elevator Company (HK) Ltd.	2	8	6
Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.	2	1	1
Fujitec (HK) Co. Ltd.	9	0	3
KONE Elevator (HK) Ltd.	7	8	1
Mitsubishi Elevator Hong Kong Co. Ltd.	1	0	0
Nikkin Lifts & Escalators Limited	0	2	2
Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.	1	2	1
Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.	2	1	1
The Express Lift Co. Ltd.	1	3	2
Antofield Engineering Co. Ltd.	1	0	0
ThyssenKrupp Elevator (HK) Ltd.	2	0	1
Jekco Elevator Ltd.	0	1	1

Shineford Engineering Ltd.	1	0	2
Ring Hing Engineering Services Co. Ltd.	0	1	0
Lighthouse Elevator Engineering Ltd.	0	0	1
Rich Mark Engineering Ltd.	0	0	1
Total:	44	35	29

For resources involved in EMSD's incident investigation, please refer to the manpower and expenditure in (b) above.

- (d) In December 2012, there were a total of 294 registered lift/escalator engineers (RE) and 4 960 competent lift/escalator workers (CWs). There are also around 630 general workers who work under the supervision of REs or CWs. According to the information obtained from the trade, the average years of experience for registered engineers and competent workers are around 15 years and 20 years respectively. In the past three years, on average there was a net increase of around 15 registered engineers and 50 competent workers joining the industry each year through various channels e.g. experienced general workers or graduates of apprentice training scheme. It is expected that this trend will continue in the coming years.
- (e) The Census and Statistics Department regularly publishes report on average daily wages of workers engaged in public sector construction projects as reported by main contractors which include the lift and escalator mechanic trade. The information can provide an indication on the salary level of CWs. As in 2010, 2011 and 2012, the average daily wages of lift and escalator mechanic were \$696, \$644 and \$605 respectively. As for the REs, we do not have the corresponding salary information.

Name in block letters:	CHAN Fan		
	Director of Electrical and		
Post Title:	Mechanical Services		
Date:	2.4.2013		