Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)117

Question Serial No.

0424

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical

Subhead (No. & title):

Services Department

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

- a. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) commits to process a lift and escalator periodic testing certificate in 13 days. What are the current procedures for approving and issuing the certificate?
- b. Before issuing periodic testing certificates, would EMSD conduct sampling inspection on the acceptability of testing works carried out by the lift and escalator maintenance contractors? What is the sampling size of such inspection? In the past five years (i.e. 2008 to 2012), how many non-compliant testing cases were found?
- c. How many lift and escalator periodic testing certificates were issued last year (i.e. 2012)? How many cases were rejected?
- d. In the past five years (i.e. 2008 to 2012), how many disciplinary cases were taken against lift and escalator maintenance contractors with poor performance? What are the details of penalty in these cases?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- a. The current procedures for processing periodic testing certificates for lifts and escalators are as follows:
 - 1. The reception office will check each application in regard to whether the required information has been provided in the specified form, whether the testing certificate has been submitted with necessary payment made.
 - 2. The application will be verified by an engineer; and then endorsed by a Chief Engineer.
 - 3. The certificate if found in order and endorsed will be issued to the applicant.

- b. EMSD will conduct on-site audit inspections of the periodic testing of lifts and escalators. In this regard, the registered lift engineers and registered escalator engineers are required to report their periodic testing schedules to EMSD on a web-based e-platform system before conducting the testing. Based on the schedules provided, EMSD will adopt a risk-based approach in selecting sample cases for conducting the audit inspections. In 2012, about 3 750 audit site inspections were conducted, equivalent to about 5.5% of the total number of periodic testing cases. No non-compliance has been found in the past five years.
- c. In 2012, EMSD issued 52 212 periodic testing certificates for lifts and 15 284 periodic testing certificates for escalators. All the applications for periodic testing certificates received were found in order and approved.
- d. In the past five years, disciplinary actions have been taken against registered lift contractors in two occasions. Apart from the fines imposed by the disciplinary board, the contractors also had to pay administrative charges for processing the disciplinary cases. Altogether the two registered contractors paid a total sum of \$424,635 and \$281,289 respectively.

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