

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**DEVB(W)128**

Question Serial No.

0596

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                      (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer:      Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

(a) The breakage of suspension ropes incident happened to a lift in an ageing building in North Point in early March 2013 caused a number of injuries. How many lifts are being repaired and maintained by the contractor involved in the incident? How many of these lifts have already been inspected by the Administration? What are the findings?

(b) In the past five years (i.e. from 2008-09 to 2012-13), how many lift incidents were caused by the breakage of suspension ropes? How many people were injured and how many contractors were involved in these incidents? Were there any offending cases? If yes, how many prosecution cases were involved?

(c) Will the Administration reinforce the enforcement procedures; including enhancing the inspection regime, improving the risk assessment method, conducting inspections after annual examinations for all contractors who have lower ranking or lower safety index in the contractors' performance rating? If yes, what additional resources are required? Will enforcement actions be stepped up to prosecute the offenders? If yes, what additional resources are required?

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

(a) A total of 248 lifts are being repaired and maintained by Shineford Engineering Limited, the contractor involved in the said lift incident. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has completed the preliminary inspection of all these lifts. Among them, eight lifts were found not complying with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Lifts Works and Escalator Works and hence suspended from services for necessary repair.

(b) In the past five years, nine lift incidents were related to the breakage of suspension ropes involving seven contractors. Except for the above incident in North Point with seven injuries, there was no injury case in all previous eight incidents. There were altogether three prosecution cases related to these eight rope breakage incidents due to contravention of the legislation.

(c) EMSD has adopted a risk-based approach to arrange audit inspections of lifts and escalators taking into account the age, type of installation, complaint, incident, change-over of maintenance contractors, and performance of contractors involved. EMSD has also conducted surprise checks to ensure that the services provided by the registered contractors, engineers and workers are up to the standard requirement.

EMSD has been from time to time reviewing its enforcement procedures with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of its regulatory control on the lift safety. In particular EMSD will carry out a critical review taking into account lessons learnt from the recent lift incident in North Point. The review will aim to enhance the risk-based approach in its audit inspections of lifts and escalators, in particular for those contractors of lower ranking in the contractors' performance rating. EMSD will deploy its resources to suit the changes in its inspection approach.

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