

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

DEVB(W)121

Question Serial No.

0615

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:

The Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, Cap. 618, was enacted in April 2012 to extend the regulatory control to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those installed in government buildings and housing estates. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) estimates that the inspection rate of lifts and escalators in 2013 will be 13.5%, which is lower than the actual inspection rate of 15.3% in 2012.

- (1) How many staff members are responsible for carrying out on-site lift inspections in Hong Kong?
- (2) What are the normal inspection procedures? On average, how many lifts are inspected per staff per day? Does the Administration adopt a risk-based approach in carrying out inspections? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (3) Is there any increase in manpower as a result of the commencement of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (4) How to ensure that the safety level of lifts will not be affected by the lowered inspection rate?
- (5) In the past three years (2010, 2011 and 2012), what are the details and figures of incidents involving injury and fatality for each contractors under the EMSD's Register?
- (6) In the past three years (2010, 2011 and 2012), has EMSD punished any lift contractors for their poor performance, leading to removal of their names from the Register?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply:

- (1) A dedicated team in EMSD responsible for carrying out on-site audit inspections of lifts and escalators comprises one Senior Engineer, three Engineers and 19 inspectors.
- (2) 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 registered contractors, engineers and workers are up to standard requirements. On average, the number of lifts inspected by an inspector ranges from two to four per day, depending on the complexity of the lift/escalator installation.
- (3) To enhance the regulation of lifts and escalators safety, EMSD created one engineer, one senior inspector and six inspector posts in 2010. Further, EMSD has deployed one Senior Engineer and one Engineer to cope with the additional work load arising from the preparation for implementation of the new Ordinance.
- (4) The Ordinance is applicable to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those of the Housing Authority and the Government, increasing lifts and escalators under statutory control from 52 000 to 60 000 lifts and 7 400 to 8 200 escalators. With this change, the inspection ratio for the annual inspection of the lift has lowered from 15.3% to 13.5%. However, EMSD will increase the total number of inspections from 9 173 in 2012 to 9 400 in 2013 for lifts and escalators safety.
- (5) In the past three years, there was no fatality cases while the number of injury cases related to failure of equipment maintained by the respective registered contractors are tabulated below :

	2012	2011	2010
Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.	1	0	1
Antonfield Engineering Co. Ltd	0	0	0
Chevalier (HK) Limited	1	2	0
Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.	5	0	0
Fujitec (HK) Co. Ltd.	0	0	3
Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.	0	1	1
Hitachi Elevator Engineering Co. (HK) Ltd.	0	0	2
Jekco Elevators Ltd.	1	1	0
KONE Elevator (HK) Ltd.	0	4	6
Lighthouse Elevator Engineering	0	0	0

