Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

DEVB(W)115

Question Serial No.

2367

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

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:

Regarding the inspection of lift and escalator facilities, how many lifts and escalators were/will be inspected by the Administration in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively? What are the percentages of the total number of lifts and escalators in Hong Kong inspected in these three years? In order to enhance the safety of lifts, will the Administration adjust the target number of inspections in 2013-14 so as to step up lift inspections? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHIANG Lai-wan

Reply:

The numbers of inspections for lifts and escalators in 2011 and 2012 were 9 107 and 9 173 respectively, equivalent to 15.6% and 15.3% respectively of the total numbers of lifts and escalators under statutory control of the Lifts & Escalators (Safety) Ordinance which was repealed on 17 December 2012. The newly enacted Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap.618), which was put into operation on 17 December 2012, is applicable to all lifts and escalators in Hong Kong, including those of the Government and the Housing Authority thereby increasing the numbers of lifts and escalators subject to the statutory control from 52 000 to 60 000 lifts and 7 400 to 8 200 escalators respectively. With this change, the annual inspection of lifts has lowered the inspection ratio from 15.3% to 13.5%. Indeed, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will increase the number of inspections from 9 173 in 2012 to 9 400 in 2013 for lifts and escalators safety. Following the North Point lift incident in March 2013, EMSD will review the risk elements for sampling of lifts and escalators for inspection such that more inspections would be conducted for lifts and escalators maintained by contractors with poor performance.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: 2.4.2013