

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

DEVB(W)206

Question Serial No.

4047

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 number of technical staff in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) responsible for carrying out inspections to more than 60 000 lifts and 8 000 escalators in Hong Kong is around 20. Based on the existing manpower, around 10 000 lifts are inspected each year, which means each lift can only be re-inspected by EMSD staff at least six years on average. Due to the ageing problem of buildings in Hong Kong as well as their associated facilities, the Administration should strictly monitor the safety of lifts as they are directly related to public safety. Please advise:

1. EMSD is currently adopting the “one out of seven” inspection policy, and only around 10 000 lifts can be inspected each year. However, in view of the frequent occurrence of major lift incidents in recent years, will the Department change the “one out of seven” inspection policy, so as to step up the inspection on lifts and protect public safety? If yes, what is the target? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Administration provide increased resources and employ more technical staff to carry out more inspections on lifts, so as to protect public safety? If yes, what is the quantity? If no, what are the reasons?
3. EMSD introduced the contractors’ performance rating system in 2009, but there is no distinguished difference between pass or fail. Some contractors with consistently lower rating can still continue to do their business, leading to problems in their maintenance work quality, and hence unable to protect public safety. Will the Department review the system and increase penalties, so as to ensure the maintenance work quality of the contractors for protecting public safety? If yes, what are the changes? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply:

