Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14

Reply Serial No.

S-DEVB(W)08

Question Serial No.

S060

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO SUPPLEMENTARY 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:

In the past three years, number of incidents related to equipment failure for lifts under the maintenance of some lift contractors was relatively high. Will the Administration increase the number of inspection or carry out more detailed inspection for the lifts maintained by these contractors? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TANG Ka-piu

Reply:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (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.

Whilst 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, EMSD will carry out a critical review taking into account lessons learnt from the recent lift incident in North Point. EMSD will review the risk elements for sampling of lifts for audit inspection such that more inspections would be conducted for those installations maintained by contractors with low contractors' performance rating or those having received warning letters, orders, complaints or involved in incidents. To strengthen the punitive and deterrent effects, the new Lifts and Escalators Ordinance has also increased the maximum fine from HK$10,000 to HK$200,000 and empowers the Registrar to cancel or suspend the registration of registered contractors pursuant to the provisions of the Ordinance.

Name in block letters: CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: 16.4.2013