5 September 2011

All Registered Lift / Escalator Contractors and Engineers

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 16/2011
Provision of Voltage-Dips Ride-Through Device

With application of voltage-dip ride-through device for upgrading the reliability of electricity supply to lifts and escalators, some improvement measures such as post-voltage dip operation and exemption application for voltage-dip ride-through device are in place and promulgated in Circular No. 16/2009 and No. 5/2010 respectively. However, with the improvement on the stability of power supply voltage-dip condition, the registered lift / escalator contractors and engineers shall handle carefully with the following considerations before you propose to install the power supply voltage-dip ride-through device on lifts and escalators.

1. Extending the power supply voltage-dip ride-through capability by delaying the operation of braking system can impair the safe operation of the escalator unless there are substantiations from the manufacturer to prove that the safe operation of escalator can be maintained as the voltage-dip ride-through device is introduced.

2. When modifying the power supply circuit of a lift system to include a voltage-dip ride-through device, the whole research and design, complete testing and verification by the lift manufacturers and independent testing institutes are strongly recommended as the passenger safety is of our paramount concern.

3. The registered lift/escalator contractor shall seek an approval-in-principle of the new lift/escalator brand/model from the Director as required under Section 11J(1)(a) of the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 327).
4. Since there is no relevant international standard for the voltage-dip ride-through device for lifts and such device is not commonly available in the lift industry, it is not appropriate to impose the ride-through requirement in the technical specification of any new lift installation at this stage.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Mr Gordon NG at 2808 3651.

Yours faithfully,

(W. S. CHUI)
for Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

cc. Director of Housing
Director of Architectural Services
The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association
The Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors Association Limited
The International Association of Elevator Engineers
EMSD – CE/AVE, CE/TSCS, CE/P, CE/GES, CE/Mun, CE/HS