

Ref.: (112) in EM/LE/55

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Electrical and Mechanical
Services Department,
98 Caroline Hill Road,
Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong.

To: All Lift Contractors

26 August 1987

Dear Sir,

Overload Devices

In view of the recent, most unfortunate, lift accidents the overload devices fitted to lifts are receiving a great deal of attention.

In order to find ways of avoiding similar incidents in the future a meeting was held with the Lift & Escalator Contractors Association. At that meeting a number of suggestions were discussed. As a result we believe that there are some simple measures which can be taken to improve the safety of lifts subjected to overloading.

We therefore require you, as a lift contractor, to take the following action:-

- i) review the overload devices fitted to lifts being maintained by your company and determine if a) they are of a fail safe design, i.e. should the device become damaged or if the contacts become dirty or wires break the lift will act as if it is overloaded and not operate, and b) they are of such a design that they will not be damaged by excessive overloading. If you discover any devices which do not meet these requirements you are required to modify the installation in order that these requirements are satisfied.
- ii) modify, if necessary, the alarm associated with the overload device on existing lifts so that it is sufficiently loud enough to be easily heard and difficult to ignore, especially in industrial and hence noisy environments. On new lifts this buzzer alarm signal should be installed as a standard fitting.
- iii) issue a letter to lift owners drawing their attention to the problem of overloading and asking them to take measures, such as the posting of warning notices, to prevent overloading of lifts, particularly cargo lifts.
- iv) identify owners of lifts not fitted with overload devices and approach them with the objective of fitting such devices to their lifts.

- v) submit to us a list of all lifts maintained by your company which are not fitted with overload devices. If possible this list should be in two sections, viz:- passenger lifts and cargo lifts.

We trust that you will agree with us that the above measures, when carried out by you will further enhance the safety of vertical transportation in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,

(G.M.W. CHUI)
for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

c.c. HD (Attn. CBSE(M) & CBSE(C))
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