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27 September 2016

To: All Registered Escalator Contractors

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 12/2016 **Modernization of Existing Escalators**

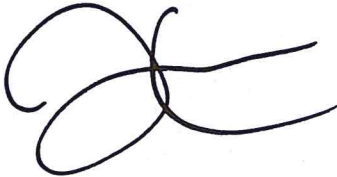
I am pleased to inform you that the guideline on modernization of existing escalators as attached in the Annex has been devised. It provides practical and useful information on escalator modernization to enhance existing escalators so as to be safer, more reliable and more comfortable. The guideline makes reference to the latest Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators and recommends the provision of additional features which are not required at the time when the existing escalators were installed. All existing escalators are recommended to be modernized such that the escalator will be incorporated with, as far as practicable, all items given in the Annex after modernization.

A series of publicity would be launched to promote the escalator modernization, and a booklet detailing the benefits and with further elaboration on the modernization solutions will be distributed to Registered Contractors and Responsible Persons of escalator for reference. You are reminded that any equipment, including components or parts used to replace the old one, used during the major alteration / modernization works should be in full compliance with the prevalent requirements of the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators and the Code of Practice for Lift Works and Escalator Works.

Please review the escalators under your maintenance and should any of the proposed modernization items be found applicable to the escalators, you are recommended to liaise with corresponding Responsible Persons and provide them with proposals for the modernization works.

Should you need further information about the above proposed escalator modernization works, please contact our engineer, Mr. Jerry Wong, at 2808 3117.

Yours faithfully,



(SHUM Ngai-on William)
for Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

- c.c. The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association
 The Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors Association Limited
 The Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employee

Escalator Modernization Items

Annex

Item	Item (clause no. in current edition of Design Code)	Description	Edition of Design Code first requiring such provision	Benefit
1	Trapping safety device between skirting and steps (Design Code clause 1.1.5.5(d))	A monitoring device provided under the skirt panel to detect any objects being trapped between skirting and steps and stop the escalator	1993	To prevent serious injury due to trapping between skirting and steps.
2	Skirt Panel Deflector device (Design Code clause 1.1.5.5)	A deflector device in the form of brush bristles suitably placed on the skirting to guard passengers' feet, loose clothing and foreign objects from coming into contact with the possible trapping point.	1993	To reduce the possibility of trapping between skirting and steps.
3	Obstruction Guards (Design Code clause 1.2.3)	An obstruction guard positioned at where building obstacles and criss-cross escalators can cause injuries to passengers riding on escalators.	1993	To reduce the possibility of trapping of passenger's head or upper limb at floor intersections and criss-cross area.
4	Emergency Stop Switch (Design Code clause 10.3.2.3)	A push button type switch to stop the escalator in case of any emergency (additional push button for escalator over 12m).	1993	To reduce the possibility of injuries due to delay of stoppage of the escalator.
5	Landing Floor Plate monitoring switch (Design Code clause 1.1.3.7)	A monitoring device provided under the landing floor plate to stop the escalator if any dislocation of the landing floor plate is detected.	2012	To reduce the possibility of passenger falling into the machine room under the landing floor plate due to the dislocation of the plate.
6	Auxiliary Brake (Design Code clause 8.6 - applicable to escalator for which the coupling of the operational brake and the driving wheels of the steps is not accomplished by shafts or gear; or the operational brake is not electro-mechanical; or the rise exceeds 6m; or it is a public service escalator)	An auxiliary brake shall stop the escalator when: (a) before the speed exceeds a value of 1.4 times the rated speed; (b) by the time the steps change from the preset direction of motion; or (c) in the event of the failure of the coupling of the operational brake and the driving wheels of the steps. (Unintended reversal monitoring switch, overspeed governor, broken step chain safety device and broken drive chain safety device shall be installed if the escalators is not equipped with these devices.)	1993	To reduce the possibility of passenger falling from the steps due to sudden acceleration or reversal movement of the escalator.
7	Step Sagging device (Design Code clause 4.5)	A monitoring device provided underneath the running step to stop the escalator if any sagging of the step is detected.	1993	To reduce the possibility of trapping due to step sagging.
8	Missing Step monitoring device (Design Code clause 7.1.1)	A monitoring device provided at each driving and return station to detect any missing step and prevent missing step emerges from the comb.	2012	To reduce the possibility of missing step which could be a serious trapping hazard to passengers.

Note: "Design Code" refers to the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators. The current version is the 2012 Edition.