

Our reference 本署檔號：
(17) in EMSD/LESD 7-2/4A Pt II

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17 January 2020

To: All Registered Escalator Contractors and Registered Escalator Engineers

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 1/2020 Closer Monitoring of Escalator Handrails

There were six reportable escalator incidents due to equipment fault in 2019, which is equal to the total number of similar incidents of the previous three years. Most of the incidents in 2019 were due to substandard maintenance/checking of the handrails, leading to unsynchronised handrails or broken steel cords going through the surface. Passenger injuries were resulted in the aforementioned incidents.

Routine maintenance and thorough examinations done properly can help eradicate the aforementioned anomalies associated with escalator handrails, in particular broken steel cord, the failure of which takes time to develop. Both registered escalator contractors (RCs) and registered escalator engineers (REs) are required to exercise due diligence to adjust the escalators and watch out for excessive wear and tear of the handrails and other critical components in performing maintenance and examinations. The responsible person (RP) for the escalator should immediately be informed of the need to have rectification and shut down the escalator where situation warrants.

RCs are requested to notify RPs in good time when they are in anticipation of the need for replacement of handrails so as to be able to schedule handrail replacement with shorter service suspension. Nevertheless, RCs should remind RPs to put aside maintenance funds for replacement of major parts, including handrails, if replacement of such is not offered free under the existing maintenance contracts. Prolonged suspension of escalator services due to price negotiation for rectification, ordering and delivery of parts will hardly be acceptable to users who have great reliance on the escalator services.

The Department will step up monitoring of escalator conditions and take necessary enforcement actions against parties who fail to discharge their statutory obligations under the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance (Cap. 618).

If you have any questions on the subject of this letter, please contact our officer on telephone number 2808 3548.

Yours faithfully,



(LAU Lik-kee)

for Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services