

Minutes of the 17th Meeting of
the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee (LESAC)

Date : 15 January 2021 (Friday)

Time : 2:30 p.m.

Venue : Via video conference

Present:	Mr KO Chi-wai, Gary	Chairman
	Mr TING Tsan-kau, Chris	Member
	Mr HO Sau-chiu	Member
	Mr KUOK Hoi-sang	Member
	Mr LAU Chun-ming	Member
	Mr POON Tai-fai	Member
	Mr TSE King-wa	Member
	Ms Esther CHEUNG	Member
	Mr WONG Kai-hon, Charles	Member
	Ms WONG Hiu-kwan	Member
	Mr CHANG Wai-ip, Daniel	Member
	Mr CHAN Wai-tung, Tony	Member
	Mr KWOK Wing-yin	Member
	Ms KI Ying-ying	Member
	Mr WONG Chun-ho, Franky	Member
	Ms WONG Wai-ling	Member
	Mr POON Kwok-ying, Raymond	Member
In attendance:	Mr WONG King-wai	Secretary/EMSD
	Mr LAU Lik-kee	EMSD
	Mr YIU Tak-tai, Boris	EMSD
	Mr CHAN Chun-wai	EMSD
Absent with apologies:	Ms CHOI Wing-yee, Cornelia	Member

Action

1 Welcoming Note

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed attendees to the 17th meeting of the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) and stated that due to the severe epidemic situation, the meeting was conducted via video conference.

2 Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting (Agenda Item 1)

- 2.1 Members did not raise any amendment to the minutes of the 16th meeting. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 16th meeting officially confirmed.

3 Matters on Declaration of Interests (Agenda Item 2)

- 3.1 The Chairman asked members to declare their interests. If a member became aware that there might be a conflict between a matter to be discussed and his own interests, he should declare his interests. If the matter to be discussed only involved the overall interests of his sector, no declaration was required.

No attendees declared interests with the matters under discussion at this meeting.

4 Progress Report of the Working Group on Matters Relating to Responsible Persons (Agenda Item 3)

Mr TING Tsan-kau, Chris, convener of the Working Group on Matters Relating to Responsible Persons, reported on the work progress of the working group. The discussion on the progress report at the meeting was as follows:

- EMSD 4.1 The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) stated that the seventh issue of the Lift and Escalator Newsletter had been published in December 2020 and its eighth issue was expected to be published in June 2021. The EMSD welcomed members to submit contributions to the publication or propose appropriate subjects for consideration.

The EMSD was producing a new series of Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs) on TV and radio and posters to promote to the public the safe use of lifts.

- EMSD 4.2 The EMSD produced leaflets to remind the responsible persons (RPs) for lifts to

notify the EMSD and relevant contractors of reportable incidents with Form LE27. The leaflets had been handed out to the RPs for lifts together with the use permits since October 2020.

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| EMSD | 4.3 | The results of the latest round of maintenance price survey on lifts at private residential and commercial premises were uploaded to the Responsible Persons' Corner on the EMSD website in November 2020. Maintenance price information would continue to be updated on a half-yearly basis, and the release date of the results of the next survey was tentatively scheduled for May 2021. |
| EMSD | 4.4 | The EMSD had recently completed the latest round of review of the Registered Lift/Escalator Contractors' Performance Rating (CPR) System. Revised scoring items were added to reflect registered contractors' performance more comprehensively and accurately. (The reviewed system had been implemented since 1 December 2020.) |
| EMSD | 4.5 | The second-round application for the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme was closed on 30 September 2020 and a total of about 920 valid applications were received, involving about 3200 lifts. Valid applications that were unsuccessful in the first-round application would be prioritised together with the applications received in the second-round application, and the results would be announced in early 2021. To help applicants expedite their tender exercises for the relevant works, the Urban Renewal Authority updated the DIY Tool-kits on the electronic tendering platform in October 2020. |
| EMSD | 4.6 | To encourage RPs to modernise lifts and enhance the RPs' capability to manage and provide quality lift service, the EMSD launched the Quality Lift Service Recognition Scheme. As at December 2020, more than 30 applications were received, involving more than 270 lifts. The EMSD had also been promoting the scheme to the RPs via various channels. The convener of the Working Group encouraged the attendees to actively participate in and promote the Scheme. |
| EMSD | 4.7 | The revised specified Form LE12 came into effect on 15 August 2020. For periodic examinations of escalators carried out on or after that date, the revised form must be used for submission of application. |
| | 4.8 | The EMSD planned to update the format of the log-book for escalators to tie in with the content of the revised Form LE12. Trade consultation on the new format of the log-book for escalators was being conducted. The revised form incorporated a list of safety equipment and detailed record of the work conducted, in order to facilitate the understanding and documentation of the details and work on escalators by RPs, the trade and the EMSD. |

5 Progress Report of the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Trade (Agenda Item 4)

Mr HO Sau-chiu, convener of the Working Group on Matters Relating to the Trade, reported on the work progress of the working group. The discussion on the progress report at the meeting was as follows:

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| EMSD | 5.1 | The EMSD was embarking on the establishment of skill-based professional qualifications tentatively titled "Lift Master" in collaboration with the trade and the Vocational Training Council(VTC). The programme details were to be confirmed by the task force concerned. The programme was expected to be submitted to Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications for review in this year and to be launched in the first quarter of 2022. |
| EMSD | 5.2 | A total of 106 candidates applied for the written examination for registered engineers of this year, which was a record high in recent years. Although originally scheduled to be held in December 2020, the examination was postponed due to the on-going epidemic. The EMSD would notify the candidates as soon as possible once the examination date was fixed. |
| EMSD | 5.3 | <p>The ultimate goal of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance was to raise the qualification requirements of registered engineers to the professional engineer level. The EMSD indicated that there were about 60 registered engineers with professional engineer qualifications, representing about 16% of the total registered engineers. There were only six contractors having the qualifications to provide Graduate Scheme "A" Training recognised by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE).</p> <p>The EMSD was liaising with the HKIE to assist registered engineers in obtaining the relevant professional qualifications. Registered contractors were encouraged to participate in and provide Graduate Scheme "A" Training so as to nurture new blood to be qualified as professional engineers.</p> |
| EMSD | 5.4 | The revised format of the Examination Report for handover of maintenance works for registered contractors came into effect in November 2020. Contractors should submit a report to the EMSD within 14 days after the handover. The EMSD planned to digitalise the relevant procedures, so as to facilitate the trade. The new system was expected to be launched in March 2021. |
| EMSD/VTC/
Lift and
Escalator
Contractors'
Association | 5.5 | The working group formed by the EMSD, the Lift and Escalator Contractors' Association and the VTC completed the first and second rounds of development of a total of five virtual reality (VR) safety training modules, which were opened for the trade to use free of charge. The third round of training courses in respect of the checking of landing doors and maintenance of brakes was expected to be ready for trial by the contractors in March 2021. The relevant work was also awarded a Certificate of Merit in the Smart Business (Solution for Business and Public Sector Enterprise) Award organised by the Hong Kong Computer Society. |

The EMSD was organising the annual safety competition titled Lift and Escalator

Work Safety Video Clip Filming Competition. Application would close in late January 2021.

- EMSD 5.6 The EMSD was conducting a new round of trade survey. The independent consultants conducted a number of focus group meetings with stakeholders of the trade in October and November 2020. The survey results would be provided to the members in the next meeting.
- EMSD 5.7 The EMSD was reviewing the Code of Practice for Lift Works and Escalator Works to introduce clear guidelines on obvious negligence and persistent irregularities in maintenance works and revise the relevant provisions based on the latest edition of the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators (CoP). Trade consultation on the revisions of the provisions was being conducted.
- EMSD 5.8 The EMSD commenced the revision of Part 4 – Escalators of the CoP, using EN115-2017 as the blueprint. Trade consultation was started in mid-2020. The revision work was expected to be completed in the second half of 2021.

6 Recent Trade Matters (Agenda Item 5)

To provide members with a better understanding of the latest development of the trade, the Secretary briefed members on recent trade matters. The discussion on the matters at the meeting was as follows:

- EMSD 6.1 The Secretary reported on the numbers of major application forms received during the period from 2016 to 2020, which had been on a steady uptrend, except for Form 5.

As at 2020, the total number of registered lift/escalator workers was 5 888 and the number of registered lift/escalator engineers totalled 369. Besides, as at September 2020, there were about 2 143 general workers in the trade to assist registered engineers/workers in conducting lift/escalator works. After receiving relevant training and accumulating sufficient experience, these general workers could apply to become registered lift/escalator workers.

The Secretary explained the age distribution of registered engineers and registered workers from 2016 to 2020. The average age of registered engineers increased slightly from 50.2 to 51.7, and that of registered workers from 46.7 to 48.5.

- EMSD 6.2 The Secretary reported on the numbers of reportable incidents for every thousand lifts and escalators from 2016 to 2020.

The total number of lift and escalator incidents was relatively stable and showed a significant falling trend in 2020 due to the decline in economic activities as a result of the epidemic. It was expected that the relevant numbers would revert to the normal level in 2021. Data analysis revealed that the incidents mainly involved children and the elderly. The EMSD would strengthen the promotion in the light of the results of the analysis.

EMSD 6.3 The EMSD accounted for three serious incidents occurred in the second half of 2020: a case of unintended lift movement in a housing estate on Hong Kong Island, a case of the elevator sliding backwards in a shopping arcade on Hong Kong Island, and a case of plunging of the lift car during lift installation. No casualties were reported in the three incidents. The EMSD explained the improvement and regulatory measures implemented in response to the incidents.

The EMSD reported that three summons were issued over the past six months in relation to the prosecution of persons/companies that were suspected of having contravened the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance. The suspected contraventions included the failure to ensure that the lift maintenance works were carried out properly, the failure to display a use permit in force in the lift car, and the RP for lifts permitting the lift to be put into use and operation without a use permit in force.

EMSD 6.4 With a view to enhancing the monitoring of the mechanized vehicle parking systems which were gaining increasing popularity in Hong Kong, as well as facilitating the development of local markets by the trade, the EMSD, in 2020, launched a dedicated website and published the Guideline for Implementing Mechanized Vehicle Parking Systems and the Guide to Safety on Double-Deck Car Park, which covered the relevant mechanical safety and legislative requirements.

The EMSD stated that project proponents should note that the time required for type approval assessment of mechanized vehicle parking systems is dependent on the complexity, scale, and level of automation of the system and the comprehensiveness of the submission. To encourage project proponents to adopt innovative solutions, the EMSD might provide initial recommendations to facilitate the implementation of the vehicle parking systems. As regards the daily operations, project proponents should consider, among other factors, the scale, design and application of the vehicle parking systems in deciding whether attendants had to be provided.

7 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 6)

The Secretary briefed members on other works commenced recently by the EMSD:

EMSD 7.1 The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer launched the iAM Smart account in collaboration with Cyberport to enable members of the public to use a single digital identity and authentication to conduct government and commercial transactions online. Upon successful registration, an iAM Smart account would be bound to the personal mobile device of the applicant. Users might make use of the biometric functions (including facial recognition, fingerprint identification, etc.) provided by their personal mobile devices to authenticate their identities and log in online services.

The EMSD had commenced the application of iAM Smart for online submission of 24 commonly used forms relating to lifts/escalators. It was expected to be launched on the online platform in June 2021 for trial by the trade. Upon completion of the design procedures of the forms for website and mobile devices, the EMSD would formulate detailed arrangement about the demonstration of online form submission using iAM Smart.

EMSD 7.2 The EMSD had been arranging inspections of lifts and escalators across the territory on a risk-based approach, with the aim of formulating strategic inspection plans to identify potential risks of lifts and escalators as early as possible and adopt preventive measures as appropriate in order to prevent accidents, on the premise that quality inspection was ensured with limited resources.

To further improve the prevailing risk-based system, the EMSD established a working group to review the inspection strategies for lifts and escalators. The review was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

EMSD 7.3 The EMSD was reviewing the regulatory regime for registered engineers so as to enhance their performance and professional level. To ensure the competency of registered engineers, the assessment included the accuracy of data input on electronic platforms, the number or days of inspections conducted, as well as their health conditions. The EMSD would strengthen the monitoring work, provide recommendations on improvement to registered engineers with unsatisfactory performance, and issue warning letters to those with continuous unsatisfactory performance or even decline their license renewal applications.

7.4 The EMSD engaged consultants to study the structural integrity of the important components of aged lifts during the work period of lift modernisation works. Important components included traction machines (such as drive shafts, gears, bearings, etc.) in machine rooms, and car frames, counterweight frames, rail clips, etc. in lift shafts. The study would involve visual inspection of the components at the scene. The EMSD aimed to inspect about 50 aged lifts and conduct in-depth studies and non-destructive tests on five traction machines among those lifts.

As at mid-November 2020, the consultants completed the studies on the components in all the lift shafts and the components of 23 traction machines of

38 aged lifts, as well as the non-destructive tests on three traction machines among those lifts. It was found that the components were in fair to good condition. The study was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021. The findings would be further analysed to help formulate the approach for handling the structural integrity of aged lifts in the future.

8 Date of Next Meeting

- 8.1 The next meeting was scheduled for July 2021. Members would be informed of the exact meeting date in due course.
- 8.2 The meeting ended at 4 p.m.