

Minutes of the 18th Meeting of
the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee (LESAC)

Date : 28 June 2021 (Monday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 7102, 7/F, EMSD Headquarters, 3 Kai Shing Street,
Kowloon Bay

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

Action

1 Welcoming Note

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed attendees to the 18th meeting of the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee).

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

- 2.1 Members did not raise any amendment to the minutes of the 17th meeting. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 17th 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 Trade Survey Report (Agenda Item 3)

- 4.1 The latest round of trade survey was completed in March 2021. It aimed to look into the pay trend and structure of lift/escalator workers, their working environment and mode of operation, factors and difficulties encountered by the trade which had affected the quality of maintenance services. The Secretary invited the representative from Aristo Market Research & Consulting Co., Ltd. to report on the results of the survey.

Members noted the results of the latest trade survey and made no further comments.

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

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 5.1 The eighth issue of the Lift and Escalator Newsletter had been published in June 2021. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) invited the Building Services Operation and Maintenance Services Executives Society (BSOMES) to give suggestions on daily management of lifts/escalators with regard to the content of this issue. The ninth issue was expected to be published in December this year. The EMSD welcomed members' contributions or suggestions on topics for reference.
- To enhance publicity, the EMSD was also producing promotional stickers on "safe use of lifts".
- EMSD 5.2 The information of the latest round of maintenance price survey on lifts at private residential and commercial premises was uploaded to the Responsible Persons' (RPs') Corner on the EMSD website in May 2021. Maintenance price information would continue to be updated on a half-yearly basis, and the results of the next survey was tentatively scheduled to be released in November 2021.
- EMSD 5.3 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 May 2021, over 70 applications were received, involving more than 600 lifts. 17 online briefing sessions had been held for more than 1 000 lift owners to promote the Scheme, and leaflets had been distributed to all RPs. The EMSD indicated that promotional activities would be held in individual districts in the future. The Chairperson encouraged the attendees to actively participate in and promote the Scheme.
- EMSD 5.4 The EMSD pointed out that the double-deck puzzle-type vehicle parking system was regulated by the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, and in the first half of 2021, prohibition orders had been issued with regard to the double-deck puzzle-type vehicle parking systems for which a permit had not been applied for. With the assistance of the EMSD, ongoing inspections had been conducted on the said parking systems and related applications for permits were in progress.
- EMSD 5.5 Incidents caused by failures of escalator handrails occurred from time to time. In this regard, in March 2021, the EMSD wrote to all RPs for escalators, suggesting that the RPs should conduct daily inspections on steps, handrails, etc. before putting the escalators in service in order to identify potential problems. They should stop the operation of the escalators when necessary, and notify the registered escalator contractors to follow up, so as to prevent possible incidents.
- EMSD 5.6 To improve the efficiency of investigation of major lift/escalator incidents, a registered contractor (RC) who became aware of major

lift/escalator incidents listed in Circular No. 4/2021 was required to immediately notify the EMSD via the hotline starting from 13 April 2021. Upon receipt of notification of the incident, the EMSD would consider deploying investigation personnel to attend to the scene to conduct incident investigation immediately. Unless there was an imminent danger or with the consent of the EMSD, the RC should not start repairing, removing or disposing of any parts of a lift and escalator involved in an incident.

- EMSD 5.7 To facilitate an earlier resumption of operation of a lift/escalator after major alteration, an electronic copy of Resumption Permit would be delivered via email. The procedures concerned were detailed in Circular No. 5/2021 and took effect on 1 May 2021.

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

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:

- EMSD/
LECA/
VTC 6.1.1 The EMSD was embarking on the establishment of skill-based professional qualifications in collaboration with the trade and the Vocational Training Council (VTC). The EMSD, Lift and Escalator Contractors Association (LECA) and VTC had established an Industry Consulting Group to discuss and design the specific contents of the “Professional Diploma Meister in Lift and Escalator Engineering”. The Programme to be provided by the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong would be pitched at level 5 under the Qualification Framework, with about 450 contact hours in total. The VTC appointed overseas education consultants to assist in developing the programme and applying for accreditation. The first programme was expected to start in the first quarter of 2022.
- EMSD 6.1.2 The ultimate goal of the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance was to raise the qualification requirements of registered engineers to the registered professional engineer level¹. The EMSD was liaising with the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) to assist registered engineers in obtaining the relevant professional qualifications. Registered contractors were also encouraged to participate in and provide Graduate Scheme “A” Training so as to nurture new blood to be qualified as professional engineers. The EMSD held a sharing session

¹ Registered professional engineer – refers to a person whose name is currently entered in a register established under section 7 of the Engineers Registration Ordinance (Cap. 409).

with the industry and the Control, Automation and Instrumentation Division of the HKIE to brief registered engineers on the procedures for applying for professional qualification on 4 June 2021. Industry representatives also shared their experience. More than 20 registered engineers attended the sharing session.

- EMSD 6.2 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. The industry had been consulted on the updated content. The new edition of the Code was tentatively scheduled to be gazetted on 9 July 2021.
- EMSD 6.3 The EMSD was currently consulting relevant Government departments on the revision of the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Lifts and Escalators (Design Code) (Part IV-Escalators). The new edition of the "Design Code" was tentatively scheduled to be gazetted in the third quarter of 2021.
- EMSD 6.4 The contractors should submit a thorough testing and examinations (T&E) reports to the EMSD within 14 days following the taking over of the lift/escalator maintenance works. The EMSD had digitised the T&E reports submitted by registered contractors for taking over of maintenance works on 1 April 2021 to further facilitate the industry. Starting from 1 July 2021, the industry was required to submit T&E reports via electronic means.

7 Recent Trade Matters (Agenda Item 6)

To provide members with a better understanding of the latest development of the trade, the Secretary briefed members on recent trade matters as follows:

- EMSD 7.1 The Secretary reported as at May 2021, the total number of registered lift/escalator workers was 6 088 and the number of registered lift/escalator engineers totalled 371. Besides, as at March 2021, there were about 2 149 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.
- EMSD 7.2 The Secretary reported on the numbers of reportable lifts and escalators incidents from 2016 to May 2021. The total number of lifts and escalators incidents was relatively stable and showed a clear downward trend in 2020. The public education and publicity effort of the Government and the industry had helped improve the safety awareness

of the use of lifts and escalators and reduce the occurrence of incidents.

In respect of lift equipment fault incidents, a rising trend of incidents involving uneven levelling of lift cars was seen in recent years. The EMSD had increased inspection frequency. For escalator equipment fault incidents, incidents involving handrails were on the rise. The EMSD had reminded the industry to pay more attention to the operation of handrails and the related drive components, and would step up inspection in this regard.

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| EMSD | 7.3 | The EMSD reported that over the past six months, 31 summons were issued in relation to the prosecution of persons/companies that were suspected of having contravened the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance. The suspected contraventions included installation of safety components of the types not approved by the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, failures to ensure that the lift works were carried out properly and safely, and failures to arrange for examination of lifts with load to be examined by registered lift engineers at an interval not exceeding five years. |
| EMSD | 7.4 | The EMSD reported the results of the Ombudsman's direct investigation into the regulatory regime for lifts and escalators. The EMSD welcomed and accepted the Ombudsman's recommendations, and briefed members on the measures formulated in response to the various recommendations at the meeting. Some of the measures had already been implemented. The members had no comments on the proposed measures. |

8 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 7)

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

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| EMSD | 8.1 | The EMSD was promoting the application of the "iAM Smart", optimising the submission process of specified forms relating to the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance on the online platform. The online form LE11 supported by the "iAM Smart" platform was launched in March 2021 and other forms would also be introduced before the first quarter of 2022. |
| EMSD | 8.2 | The EMSD briefed members on the work related to the implementation of the Digital Log-books for Lifts and Escalators. The Proof-of-Concept |

(POC) study for the Digital Log-books for Lifts and Escalators was near completion. The results of the study had been shared with the industry, trade unions and RP organisations and positive responses had been received. The formal design was expected to begin in the third quarter of 2021. Members generally expressed support for the Digital Log-books for Lifts and Escalators.

9 Conclusion (Agenda Item 8)

- 9.1 The Chairman summarised the work of the advisory committee and thanked all members for their support and contribution to the safety of lifts and escalators.
- 9.2 On behalf of the EMSD, Mr. Poon Kwok-ying, Raymond also thanked the Chairman and members for providing valuable advice to the Department in improving the safety of lifts and escalators in Hong Kong.

10 Date of Next Meeting

- 10.1 The next meeting would be the first meeting of the new term and was scheduled for December 2021. Members would be informed of the exact meeting date in due course.
- 10.2 The meeting ended at 5 p.m.