

(Translation)

Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of
the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee

Date:	4 July 2023 (Tuesday)	
Time:	10:00 a.m.	
Venue:	Unit 3901, Skyline Tower, 39 Wang Kwong Road, Kowloon Bay	
Present:	Ir KO Chi-wai, Gary	Chairman
	Ir HO Sau-chiu	Member
	Mr TSE King-wa	Member
	Mr THONG Wang-fai, William	Member
	Mr LAI Ka-kui	Member
	Ms CHAN Nga-yan	Member
	Ms CHIU Chi-san, Angela	Member
	Sr LEE Man-kwong	Member
	Mr CHAN Wai-tung, Tony	Member
	Mr KWOK Wing-yin	Member
	Ms CHAN Wing-yan	Member
	Mr LEUNG Chun-pong, Maverick	Member
	Ms MAN Wing-po	Member
	Mr POON Kwok-ying, Raymond	Member
	Ms LEUNG Wai-chun, Karmen	Member
	Mr WONG King-wai	Secretary/EMSD
In attendance:	Mr CHOW Hau-keung, Vincent	EMSD
	Mr LAU Lik-kee	EMSD
	Mr LEE Chi-leung, Eric	EMSD
	Ms WONG Yuk-ying	EMSD
	Mr CHUNG Kwok-kuen	Aristo Market Research & Consulting Company Limited (Agenda Item 3 only)
Absent with apologies:	Mr KUOK Hoi-sang	Member
	Mr LAU Chun-ming	Member
	Mr LEE Ling-kit, Anka	Member

Action **1** **Welcoming Members of the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee**

- 1.1 The Chairman confirmed that the number of members present met the quorum requirement (i.e. eight non-official members) of the Lift and Escalator Safety Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee), and welcomed attendees to the 22nd meeting of 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 21st meeting. The Chairman declared the minutes of the 21st meeting 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 in the matters under discussion at this meeting.

4 **Thematic Presentation –Lift and Escalator Trade Survey (Agenda Item 3)**

- EMSD 4.1 Mr CHUNG Kwok-kuen of Aristo Market Research & Consulting Company Limited (the consultant company) reported on the results of the Lift and Escalator Trade Survey.

The latest round of trade survey was completed in March 2023. The survey aimed to look into the pay trend and structure of practitioners in the lift/escalator trade, their working environment and mode of operation, factors and difficulties encountered by the trade which had affected the quality of maintenance services, etc. The survey showed that the remuneration of trade practitioners had improved by varying degrees in the past few years, and the trade and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) had been actively following up on the difficulties encountered by trade practitioners. Based on the survey results, the consultant company had made recommendations to the EMSD for continuously improving the service quality of the trade.

Members noted the methodology and results of the Lift and Escalator Trade Survey, and suggested the EMSD follow up on the recommendations proposed by the consultant company.

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

On behalf of Sr LEE Man-kwong, Convener of the Working Group on Matters Relating to Responsible Persons, the Secretary reported on the work of the Working Group. The discussion was as follows:

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| EMSD | 5.1 | To raise public awareness of lift and escalator safety, the EMSD proactively organised and participated in briefing sessions to share knowledge about lift and escalator safety. Between January and mid-June 2023, the EMSD organised a total of 30 face-to-face or online briefing sessions, with an attendance of over 2 000 participants. The EMSD representatives also conducted 152 outreach activities both online and at schools and elderly centres to share tips on safe use of lifts and escalators, with an attendance of over 8 000 participants. |
| EMSD | 5.2 | The EMSD stated that the 12th issue of the Lift and Escalator Newsletter was published in June 2023 and the Lift and Escalator Contractors Association (the Association) was invited to share the experience in adopting the modular integrated construction (MIC) technology in the installation of lifts. The EMSD had invited the Association to introduce the technology of destination control system in the 13th issue of the Lift and Escalator Newsletter, which was expected to be published in December 2023. The EMSD welcomed members' contributions or suggestions on suitable topics for reference. |
| EMSD | 5.3 | Regarding the progress of the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme, successful applicants had been progressively recruiting registered lift contractors through the electronic tendering platform of the Urban Renewal Authority, commencing works and applying for subsidies. As at early June 2023, tendering exercises for the modernisation works of 170 lifts would be conducted in the third quarter of 2023; tenders were being invited for the works of 593 lifts; tenders had been closed or owners' meetings were being arranged for the selection of contractors for the works of 1 024 lifts; works contracts had been awarded or works had been commenced for 914 lifts; and works had been completed for 481 lifts. |
| EMSD | 5.4 | The EMSD stated that the modernisation of aged lifts not only enhanced the safety level, comfort and reliability of lifts, but also improved energy efficiency and saved operating costs. Moreover, the significant savings in energy costs brought by the replacement of lifts provided additional financial incentives to owners to modernise aged lifts as soon as possible. The EMSD was stepping up publicity and promotion of modernisation of aged lifts among responsible persons (RPs) by various means, such as producing new promotional videos, updating publicity publications, compiling an information kit about the application methods of various subsidy schemes for conducting lift modernisation works, etc. |
| EMSD | 5.5 | As for publicity and promotion, the EMSD would continue to work with RPs on various fronts to step up publicity and promotion of lift and escalator safety. The EMSD would also publicise the Digital Log-books System on different occasions through various channels to encourage |

more RPs to adopt the digital log-books, with a view to facilitating the joint monitoring and management of lifts and escalators by RPs, the trade and the Government.

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

Ir 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 6.1 Regarding the licence renewal of registered workers (RWs), the EMSD had earlier sent out an SMS to remind RWs to submit their renewal applications well in advance, and actively collaborated with registered contractors (RCs) to encourage them to submit renewal applications for their RWs in batches to facilitate both the contractors and RWs. As at 31 May 2023, 2 040 RWs had their renewal applications approved. The EMSD would closely monitor the licence renewal situation of RWs.
- EMSD 6.2 The EMSD indicated that the written examination for registered lift/escalator engineers was already held at the Wan Chai campus of the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge of the Vocational Training Council on 11 February 2023. A total of 116 persons applied for and sat the examination, whose results were announced on the online platform of the Institute on 6 April 2023. The pass rate of both the lift and escalator examination papers exceeded 60%.
- EMSD 6.3 Regarding the uplift in the professional qualifications of registered engineers (REs), following the discussion at the 20th meeting, the EMSD planned to, in the second half of 2023, report to the Legislative Council Panel on Development and introduce a bill for negative vetting, in order to repeal the transitional arrangements for applying for engineer registration through having a relevant bachelor's degree in engineering and four years of experience by the end of 2027. The EMSD would continue to spur RCs to provide Graduate Scheme "A" Training of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) and participate in the HKIE's mentorship programme; motivate and assist trade practitioners to obtain professional qualifications; and continue to hold the designated written examination until 2027.
- Currently, there were five contractors providing the HKIE's Graduate Scheme "A" Training. With the promotion of the HKIE, two contractors were preparing to sign a Charter on Co-operation with the HKIE to encourage trade practitioners to obtain the HKIE's professional engineer qualifications.
- EMSD 6.4 The EMSD was actively exploring the feasibility of integrating and improving the effectiveness of lift maintenance with the use of a remote monitoring system, in response to challenges posed by ageing population

and business growth of RCs. The EMSD had invited contractors to join a pilot scheme which was aimed at evaluating the performance of the remote monitoring system in the areas of fault diagnostic, emergency plan, etc. Also, comparative field tests would be conducted to make comparison between the results of routine maintenance works and that of the remote monitoring system. The EMSD would draw up guidelines based on the tests results and grant approval-in-principle on a case-by-case basis, and allow the adjustment of lift maintenance frequency having regard to the use of the remote monitoring system without compromising the safety level of equipment. The EMSD was studying the information collection, technical content and testing venues with the contractors, and would report the test results to the Advisory Committee in due course.

- EMSD 6.5 Using the MIC technology to build lifts could help “enhance the speed, efficiency, quantity and quality” and improve the safety of construction sites. The trade was actively employing it in the lift installation process. The EMSD recommended that the contractors review as early as possible whether the installation method deviated from the approval requirements of the original designs, and consult the approval agency, manufacturers and the EMSD in a timely manner.

7 Recent Trade Matters (Agenda Item 6)

The Secretary briefed members on recent trade matters as follows:

- 7.1 The Secretary reported that there were a total of 350 REs, 6 129 RWs and 2 100 general workers in the lift and escalator trade as in mid-June 2023.
- 7.2 The Secretary reported on the number of reportable incidents for every thousand lifts and escalators for the period from 2016 to May 2023. The total number of lift and escalator incidents remained low. The incidents were mainly caused by passenger behaviour. Public education and publicity activities conducted by the Government and the trade helped enhance the public’s awareness of safety when taking lifts/escalators and reduce incidents.
- In respect of lift equipment fault incidents, most incidents were related to uneven levelling of lift cars; as for escalator equipment fault incidents, the commonest causes of the incidents included unsynchronised handrail operation and sudden stop of handrail resulting in passenger injury. The EMSD would continue to step up publicity and inspection against the incidents.
- 7.3 The Secretary reported that during the period from January to mid-June 2023, 11 summonses were issued in relation to the prosecution of persons/companies that were suspected of having contravened the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance. The suspected contraventions mainly included failure to ensure that the lift/escalator works were carried out

properly.

- 7.4 The Secretary shared the recent rope breakage incident at a lift of Golden Industrial Building in Kwai Chung. The findings revealed that the dirt at the bottom of the lift car hindered the operation of the lift components, causing the lift car to get stuck in the liftway. At the same time, as the drive sheave was still revolving, the four suspension ropes of the lift were ground and eventually broke. The EMSD had prosecuted the RC, RE and RWs. In addition, the EMSD had instructed all RCs to inspect their lifts and peripheral equipment to confirm that they were properly maintained.

The Secretary also shared the industrial accident that occurred at AIA Kowloon Tower in Kwun Tong, in which a cleaning worker died of falling into the lift shaft from the lift shaft- rescue door on the 30th floor. The findings revealed that the equipment of the lift involved was operating normally. The EMSD would assist relevant government departments in conducting investigations and formulating improvement measures. The EMSD had also reminded all contractors to prompt their frontline staff to report anomalies in rescue doors to the persons in charge of building management as soon as possible.

- EMSD 7.5 The Secretary said that the number of escalator accidents was on the rise as society returned to normality. Most of these accidents were attributed to passenger behaviour, and in particular a number of them were caused by passengers losing their balance while walking on the escalators. The EMSD launched a short video in May 2023 to publicise relevant safety messages and distributed it to RPs through instant messaging software, and meanwhile actively co-operated with the RPs of escalators (such as the MTR) to strengthen the promotion of escalator safety. The EMSD invited members to help share relevant messages with organisations and resident representatives.

- EMSD 7.6 The Secretary briefed members on the work related to the implementation of the Digital Log-books System, which was officially launched in November 2022. As in mid-June 2023, more than 15 000 lifts and escalators had adopted the Digital Log-books System. As for publicity and promotion, the EMSD had been publicising the Digital Log-books System on different occasions through various channels to encourage more RPs to adopt digital log-books, with a view to facilitating the joint monitoring and management of lifts and escalators by RPs, the trade and the Government. The EMSD would also continue to provide adequate support for RPs and the trade, so as to help them adapt to the working mode brought about by the Digital Log-books System. The EMSD also encouraged members to assist in promoting the Digital Log-books System to boost its adoption rate.

8 Any Other Business (Agenda Item 7)

- 8.1 The Chairman summarised the work of the 5th Advisory Committee and thanked members for their participation and valuable opinions that helped improve the safety of lifts and escalators in Hong Kong. Looking forward, the Chairman hoped that the new Advisory Committee would continue to assist the EMSD in meeting challenges and overcoming difficulties in areas of ensuring the healthy development of the trade, strengthening publicity and promotion, as well as pushing forward the modernisation of aged lifts, so as to benefit the people of Hong Kong.
- 8.2 On behalf of the EMSD, Mr Poon Kwok-ying, Raymond also thanked the Chairman and members for their contribution during this term, as well as the continuous advice to the EMSD on improving the safety of lifts and escalators. They had performed the function of the Advisory Committee to assist the EMSD in making various achievements.

9 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 The meeting ended at 12:00 noon. The date of next meeting was to be confirmed.