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28 January 2022

To: All Registered Lift/Escalator Contractors and Registered Lift/Escalator Engineers

Dear Sirs,

Circular No. 3/2022 – Acquisition of Professional Status by Lift / Escalator Trade Practitioners

At present, there are over 70,000 lifts and 10,000 escalators in Hong Kong serving the citizens in their essential daily vertical transportation. Lift and escalator safety attracts public concern. Practitioners in the lift/escalator trade have, over the years, contributed to the proliferation of lift/escalator installations with high service standards in the territory, including organising and overseeing lift/escalator works, and examining and testing of the installations to assure their proper functioning and safe working order.

To further uplift the service quality and standard, as well as the status/image of the trade, and to meet the public expectation, the qualification standard of practitioners responsible for lift/escalator examinations will be brought to a level compatible with other legislation for building safety control. The pre-requisite of being a Registered Professional Engineer ("RPE") of relevant discipline for registration of lift/escalator engineers has been laid down in Cap. 618 and would be brought in effect in the long term. As such, we strongly encourage practitioners intended to be registered lift/escalator engineers to acquire the said professional status soonest possible.

With the continuing efforts of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers ("HKIE") and the EMSD, the professional assessment of HKIE for acquiring the professional status of MHKIE (i.e. Member of the HKIE) has been refined to recognize engineering knowledge and work experience acquired in the lift/escalator industry. Being a MHKIE is the critical step towards acquiring the RPE status, and thence for registration as lift/escalator engineer in the future. As a start, the Control, Automation and Instrumentation ("CAI") Discipline and the Mechanical Discipline of the HKIE have prepared Guidance Notes to provide guidelines and references for lift/escalator trade practitioners to prepare for professional assessment under the respective disciplines. The Guidance Notes have, in particular, set out the competence profile of lift/escalator trade practitioners for the HKIE's professional registration.

The two Guidance Notes have been released by the HKIE and can be accessed via the following hyperlinks:

Guidance Notes of the CAI Discipline –

www.hkie.org.hk/en/membership/download_mem2/upload/page/189/self/61ee3e3959b5a.pdf

Guidance Notes of the Mechanical Discipline –

www.hkie.org.hk/en/membership/download_mem2/upload/page/189/self/61ee3e3968f80.pdf

Furthermore, the HKIE is about to launch its Mentorship Scheme to assign mentors with experience in professional assessment to give guidance on preparation of professional report and interview to applicants who have difficulty in seeking advice/assistance, in particular for applicants whose companies do not have sufficient professionals to oversee and support their HKIE professional assessment applications. The HKIE has also kindly offered to provide briefing sessions to elaborate on the requirements and answer questions that applicants may have if there are sufficient candidates. To enable us to coordinate and facilitate further, practitioners who are interested in applying to the HKIE for professional assessment in 2022 are invited to email us (lesd@emsd.gov.hk) with your contact details and the discipline interested in (CAI or Mechanical), making reference to this circular, by end February 2022. Those who intend to be registered lift/escalator engineers in the future and wish to acquire the MHKIE status, as well as those who are already a registered lift/escalator engineer but wishing to acquire additional MHKIE status are welcome.

Trade practitioners are highly encouraged to make reference to the Guidance Notes and seriously consider to apply for the professional registration. Registered Contractors (“RCs”) are encouraged to promote and facilitate their potential staff to obtain professional engineer status. In addition, RCs are also encouraged to organize Scheme “A” training programmes for attracting and grooming more young talents within their companies. We can facilitate the lining up of RCs with the HKIE to provide advice/assistance for RCs to establish Scheme “A” training programme within their organisations.

We trust the tripartite collaboration between the trade, the HKIE, and the EMSD can uplift the professionalism of the lift/escalator trade, being a crucial engineering profession serving the community.

If you have any question on this subject, please contact our engineer, Mr Kaiser CHEUNG, on telephone number 3757 6120.

Yours faithfully,



(LAU Lik-kee)

for Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

- c.c. The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association
- The Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors Association Limited
- International Association of Elevator Engineers (HK-China Branch)
- The Hong Kong Institution of Registered Engineers (Lift & Escalator)