

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

Telephone 電話號碼: 2808 3861

Your reference 來函檔號：

Facsimile 圖文傳真: 2504 5970

31 January 2024

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

Circular No. 3/2024 – Roll-out of the TAPAS (Type Approval Process and Authentication System)

EMSD is committed to utilize new technologies to enhance quality, efficiency and effectiveness of its services. Since 2022, we have been working with the trade to develop a new and innovative solution for processing type approval applications, namely the Type Approval Process and Authentication System or TAPAS. The TAPAS is a system which utilizes Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technologies to automate the process for preparing and vetting type approval applications for lift/escalator systems and safety components.

Under the TAPAS, Registered Lift/Escalator Contractors (RCs) could submit type approval applications by uploading the required documents via the TAPAS platform according to the embedded instructions, saving for reproduction and delivery of heaps of submission documents for processing. The TAPAS would automatically check the uploaded submissions before officially lodging the application to EMSD, enabling RCs to use minimal efforts to assure submission quality and completeness. In turn, EMSD could then assess and approve the validated applications on the platform. The RC would be issued with a digitally signed approval letter accompanying an Appendix to show the detailed specifications of the approved type of lifts/escalators and/or safety components.

With the use of the TAPAS, the turn-around time for processing type approval applications is anticipated to reduce significantly. In addition, the platform would also provide online, round-the-clock data searching and retrieval function of type approval applications and approval documents. We believe the TAPAS platform would facilitate RCs to better manage their portfolio of approved types of lifts/escalators and safety components.

In view of the very positive response on TAPAS by users in the trial, we now decide to officially launch the TAPAS on 31 January 2024. RCs are **strongly encouraged** to lodge their type approval applications via the TAPAS platform commencing from 31 January 2024. We shall separately advise when paper submissions of type approval application under form LE1 will be no longer acceptable.

If you have any questions on the subject matter, please contact our officer on telephone number 2808 3549.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LAU Lik-kee', written in a cursive style.

(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
The International Association of Elevator Engineer (HK-China) Branch
The Hong Kong Institution of Registered Engineers (Lift & Escalator)