

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HPLB(PL)065

Question Serial No.

0950

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Mechanical engineering installations safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question : The indicator “no. of incident / 100 registered escalators” under the key performance measures of Programme (2) is expected to increase from 10.2 in 2003 to 10.5 in 2004, while the number of inspections of lifts and escalators will decrease from 4085 in 2003 to 3800 in 2004. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The slight increase of 0.3 in the incident indicator was estimated in a prudent manner based on the past year's incident record, which indicated more escalator incidents involving tourists and new immigrants due to carelessness, and the likely continuous trend of a large number of tourists visiting Hong Kong.

The inspections of lifts and escalators are conducted in order to monitor the performance of the registered lift/escalator engineers and contractors. Under this arrangement, the inspection of all new lifts and escalators and random inspection of existing lifts and escalators will continue in 2004-05. Whilst there is a small reduction in the number of random inspections of existing lifts and escalators in 2004-05 due to the re-organisation of work to achieve better resource utilization, it is not expected that this reduction will have any significant effect on the performance of the said engineers and contractors. Moreover, with continued publicity and public education on the safe use of lifts and escalators, the overall impact on the safety of lifts and escalators should not be significant.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Roger S. H. LAI

Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and
Mechanical Services

Date _____ 24 March 2004