

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

HPLB(PL)060

Question Serial No.

1538

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

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) will step up enforcement actions and publicity efforts to enhance lifts and escalators safety. Please elaborate on details of law enforcement action, publicity, associated manpower and expenses. Would review be conducted to assess the effectiveness of these measures? Is there any plan to further promote public awareness on safe use of lifts and escalators? If affirmative, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Kwok-ying

Reply:

The EMSD will take a multi-pronged approach to improve lifts and escalators safety in Hong Kong.

Firstly, inspection and enforcement actions will be stepped up. From 2007-08, five additional mechanical inspector posts will be created in EMSD for this purpose, and this would help to increase the number of surprise checks of lifts and escalators. Surprise check is an effective means to monitor the performance of registered lift and escalator contractors who are responsible for up-keeping lifts and escalators in safe working order. If defects are found during such checks, EMSD will immediately notify the contractors as well as owners for rectification. Disciplinary or prosecution actions may be taken against such contractors.

In addition, a package of publicity activities has been planned to enhance public awareness on the safe use of lifts and escalators, including:

- (i) ambassador visits to elderly centres, youth centres and kindergartens;
- (ii) safety quizzes and seminars for lift and escalator workers;
- (iii) safety campaigns and carnivals;
- (iv) safety talks for the general public and property management firms;
- (v) web sites on safe use of lifts and escalators; and
- (vi) competitions on improvement of safety for lifts and escalators works.

A provision of \$220,000 has been earmarked for implementing the above publicity activities in 2007-08.

EMSD will closely monitor and review the effectiveness of the above measures. In this connection, a survey will be conducted with a view to appraising public awareness on lift and escalator safety.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	HO KWONG WAI
Post Title	Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services
Date	16 March 2007

[TOP](#)