

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)370/11-12
(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/BC/7/10/2

Bills Committee on Lifts and Escalators Bill

Third meeting on
Sunday, 17 July 2011, at 9:00 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B. St.J., JP
Hon James TO
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Members absent : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC

Public officers : Mr Jimmy CHAN Pai-ming
Attending Principle Assistant Secretary for Development (Works) 3

Mr Jacky WU Kwok-yuen
Assistant Secretary for Development (Works Policies) 7

Mr Frank CHAN Fan
Deputy Director/Regulatory Services
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Mr CHUI Wai-sing
Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/
General Legislation
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Mr Michael FONG Hok-shing
Technical Secretary
Development Bureau

Mr Leakey LAU Lik-kee
Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/
Lifts and Escalators 1
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Attendance by Invitation : The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Mr Gary YEUNG
Chairman of Property Facility Management Division

Hongkong International Terminals Limited

Mr CHIM Cheung-hon
Cranes Maintenance - Superintendent

Building Services Operation and Maintenance
Executives Society

Mr Jonathan LEE
Vice President

Eugene Engineering Co. Limited

Mr LAU Hing-chow
General Manager

Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.

Mr John William MIDDLEMISS
Managing Director

Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.

Mr LO Wing-man
Director

Ms WONG Siu-yee
Director

The Federation of Hong Kong Electrical & Mechanical
Industries Trade Unions

Mr LAI Chi-wah
Chairman

Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Electrical)
Vocational Training Council

Mr Charles WONG Kai-hon
Chief Instructor

Cheerwell Engineering Limited

Mr POON Tai-fai
Director

Mr KWONG Kam-ho
Senior Engineer

Fujitec (HK) Co. Ltd.

Mr Robert HUI
Divisional Manager

Individual

Mr SZE Leung-man

The International Association of Elevator Engineers
(HK - China Branch)

Miss Betty LEE Yuen-yi
Administrative Secretary

Mr LO Chi-kwong
Member Representative

Chevalier (HK) Limited

Mr SIU Ping-kwan
Senior Engineer

Mr HUNG Man-chung
Maintenance Manager

The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association

Mr KUOK Hoi-sang
President

Mr David CHAN Hoi-yin
Chairman - Technical Sub-committee

Elevator Parts Engineering Company Limited

Mr YAN Kin-wing
Senior Engineer

Mr TAM Sai-Man
Depot Manager

The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical
Contractors Limited

Mr LAU Hon-shing
Council Member

Mitsubishi Elevator Hong Kong Co. Ltd.

Mr YIP Sai-wa
Manager

Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.

Mr Danny LUK
HR Director

Schindler Lifts (Hong Kong) Ltd.

Mr CHAN Siu-shing
EI Operations Director

Ryoden Lift Services Ltd.

Mr Samson LIU Man-sing
Manager

Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors
Association Ltd.

Mr LAU Chun-ming
Director

Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator
Employees

Mr TSE King-wa
Chairman

Mr CHAM Man-chiu
Member

Otis Elevator Company (HK) Ltd

Mr Ian LAU Yan-heung
Service – Director

Mr KWONG Chi-keung
Service System – Manager

Construction Industry Council

Mr Alex LEUNG
Council Services - Senior Manager

ThyssenKrupp Elevator (HK) Limited

Mr Donald MAK
Managing Director

Clerk in attendance : Ms Annette LAM
Chief Council Secretary (1)7

Staff in attendance : Mr Kelvin LEE
Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Mr Daniel SIN
Senior Council Secretary (1)7

Ms Iris CHEUNG
Legislative Assistant (1)7

I Meeting with deputations and the Administration

Submissions from organizations not attending the meeting

- (LC Paper No. CB(1)2724/10-11(11) — Submission from The Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies dated 7 July 2011
- LC Paper No. CB(1)2724/10-11(12) — Submission from Mr YEUNG Wai-sing, MH, Eastern District Council Member dated 9 July 2011
- LC Paper No. CB(1)2748/10-11(02) — Submission from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers dated 14 July 2011)

Relevant papers

- (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11(13) — List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 21 June 2011

Other relevant papers previously issued

- (LC Paper No. CB(3)684/10-11 — The Bill
- File Ref: DEVB/(CR)(W)1-10/30 — Legislative Council Brief
- LC Paper No. LS59/10-11 — Legal Service Division Report
- LC paper No. CB(1) 2328/10-11(01) — Paper on Lifts and Escalators Bill prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (Background brief)

II Any other business

Date of next meeting

1. The next meeting should be held on Tuesday, 11 October 2011.
2. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 November 2011

**Proceedings of the
Bills Committee on Lifts and Escalators Bill
Third meeting on Sunday, 17 July 2011, at 9:00 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action Required
000401 – 000611	Chairman	Opening remarks	
000612 – 001144	The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors	Presentation of views (CB(1) 2724/10-11 (01)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
001145 – 001211	Hongkong International Terminals Limited	Hongkong International Terminals Limited raised no comments.	
001212 – 001634	Building Services Operation and Maintenance Executives Society	Presentation of views (CB(1) 2724/10-11 (02)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
001635 – 001751	Eugene Engineering Co. Ltd.	Eugene Engineering Co. Ltd. made the following comments: (a) The Bill should clarify whether lifts and escalators should be considered as building works when the whole building was being demolished; and (b) A lift would suspend operation when a form 7 was submitted to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to carry out alteration works as would be required under the Bill. The lift could only resume operation until EMSD issued approval. The relevant process should be expedited.	
001752 – 001825	Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd.	Anlev Elex Elevator Ltd. commented that the two-week waiting period for EMSD to approve a replacement of major component work would affect service to the public.	
001826 – 002219	Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.	Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd. made the following comments: (a) The Administration should work with the sector and provide resources to set up a training centre to provide professionally	

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		<p>recognized training and continuous development of lift and escalator technicians and professionals; and</p> <p>(b) The Administration should discuss with the insurance sector that with the improvement of professional standard and safety level of lifts and escalators following the implementation of new measures under the Bill, more reasonable and affordable insurance packages could be available to contractors.</p>	
002220 – 002747	The Federation of Hong Kong Electrical & Mechanical Industries Trade Unions	<p>The Federation made the following comments:</p> <p>(a) Existing lift and escalator workers should be eligible for registration without having to acquire extra qualifications, undergo skills assessment or subject to any other conditions;</p> <p>(b) Registration and training costs should be kept as low as possible;</p> <p>(c) Whether a worker must have eight years of prior experience to sit for the trade test should be clarified;</p> <p>(d) There should be alternative means to accredit a lift worker's vocational experience if he could not obtain proof from his previous employers; and</p> <p>(e) The Administration should invite suitable public organizations to provide training for workers.</p>	
002748 – 002759	Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Electrical) Vocational Training Council	Chief Instructor, Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Electrical), Vocational Training Council raised no comment.	
002760 – 003026	Cheerwell Engineering Limited	Presentation of views (CB(1) 2724/10-11 (03)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
003027 – 003044	Fujitex (HK) Co. Ltd.	Divisional Manager, Fujitex (HK) Co. Ltd raised no comments.	

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action Required
003045 – 003554	Mr SZE Leung-man	<p>Mr Sze Leung-man's comment that :</p> <p>(a) Clause 8 of the Bill only allowed "qualified persons" or "specified persons" to carry out lift works personally. Clause 15(2) required a responsible person to "cause a registered lift contractor to undertake the maintenance works of a lift". The new requirements were at variance with the current practice and lift owners could easily breach the law inadvertently;</p> <p>(b) By clauses 16(1)(e) and 17(1)(e) of the Bill, lift workers and engineers would be left idle and could not install new lift models until the installations had been thoroughly tested and approved by EMSD; and</p> <p>(c) The Administration should consider exempting specialized lift installations from the Bill's requirements.</p>	
003606 – 003810	The International Association of Elevator Engineers (HK - China Branch)	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11 (04)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
003811 – 004101	Chevalier (HK) Limited	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11 (05)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
004102 – 004621	The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11 (06)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
004622 – 004920	Elevator Parts Engineering Company Limited	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11 (07)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
004921– 005119	The Hong Kong Federation of Electrical & Mechanical Contractors Limited	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11 (08)) issued on 13 July 2011.	
005120 – 005305	Mitsubishi Elevator Hong Kong Co. Ltd.	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11(09) issued on 13 July 2011.	

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005306 – 005743	Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd.	<p>Holake Hong Kong Lifts Ltd, made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Lifts in Hong Kong were very safe by international standard; (b) The Bill should be supported as it clarified the respective responsibilities of lift owners, managers, registered engineers, lift workers and contractors; (c) The proposed registration system was conducive to raising the professional and safety standards; (d) Practitioners' onus under the Bill to ensure the safety of each component and operation of a lift was more ambiguous as compared with the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance, Cap. 327; (e) The Bill should set out more clearly the new requirements and the process (including consultation with the sector) in formulating the codes of practice; (f) The proposed professional qualifications for registration as a registered engineer were too high and it was unlikely to have sufficient number of qualified personnel to meet the demand in the next ten years; (g) The meaning of certain phrases and terminologies were ambiguous. Examples were : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) "direct and proper supervision...at the place at which the examination takes place" in clause 19; (ii) "thoroughly examine" in clauses 21(1)(a) and 22; and (iii) "reasonably practicable" in clause 28(4). 	
005744 – 010150	Schindler Lifts (HK) Ltd.	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2724/10-11 (10)) issued on 13 July 2011.	

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010151 – 010201	Ryoden Lift Services Ltd.	Ryoden Lift Services Ltd. concurred with the comments made by the Mitsubishi Elevator Hong Kong Co. Ltd.	
010212 – 010723	Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors Association Ltd.	Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors Association Ltd. made the following comments: (a) As the Bill would impose new responsibilities on lift owners, there should also be suitable sanctions and penalties against contravention of requirements; and (b) The respective disciplinary boards should comprise owner representatives, registered lift or escalator engineers as well as registered lift or escalator workers.	
010724 – 011239	Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1)2748/10-11(01)) issued on 15 July 2011.	
011240 – 011734	Otis Elevator Company (HK) Ltd.	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2748/10-11 (04) issued on 19 July 2011.	
011744 –0 12032	Construction Industry Council	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2748/10-11 (03)) issued on 19 July 2011.	
012033 –0 12042	ThyssenKrupp Elevator (HK) Limited	ThyssenKrupp Elevator (HK) Limited made no comment.	
012043 – 014353	Administration	The Administration's response that: (a) The Bill would also include persons who had management or control of a lift or escalator, in the current scope of "responsible person"; (b) The Bill required a responsible person to report an incident to EMSD within 24 hours when he was aware of its occurrence; (c) Transitional arrangements were made to facilitate existing practitioners to be registered under the new system to ensure sufficient supply of qualified personnel to meet service demands; (d) The expiry date for the transitional arrangement was open;	

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		<p>(e) EMSD would facilitate registration of lift or escalator workers by deploying registration staff to their workplace to conduct mass registration;</p> <p>(f) Discussions were being held with the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, registered contractors and training bodies to provide suitable training courses and internship training opportunities for graduates;</p> <p>(g) A task force lead by the Vocational Training Council (VTC) was set up and was developing a trade test for assessing the qualification of lift or escalator workers for registration. The trade test would consist of a written part and a practical test; a candidate passed the trade test and had not less than eight years' experience was eligible to apply for registration;</p> <p>(h) Alternative means were being explored to allow a worker who had changed many employers to obtain proof of their employment history and technical experience that were necessary for registration;</p> <p>(i) The Bill would require the registered engineers to be responsible for ensuring those spare parts that were related to the safe operation of lifts and escalators would meet the manufacturers' standard;</p> <p>(j) As regards notification to EMSD on incidents of non-safe operation of lifts and escalators, responsible persons could claim defence for not being able to give notification within 24 hours if they could prove they were not aware of the incidents;</p> <p>(k) The Administration was discussing with VTC since last year to organize top-up training programmes for lift or escalator workers to facilitate their registration; and</p> <p>(l) The Administration was discussing with the contractors associations, relevant industry organization and the Hong Kong Institute</p>	

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		<p>of Engineers to explore training programmes to facilitate registration of lift engineers.</p>	
<p>014354 – 015756</p>	<p>Mr James TO Property Facility Management Division Building Services Operation and Maintenance Executives Society Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd.</p>	<p>Mr TO's query of deputations' objection to requiring owners or managers to notify EMSD within 24 hours of a lift incident, and the lessons learnt from the recent escalator incident in Beijing.</p> <p>Chairman of Property Facility Management Division, HKIS commented that the Bill specified a list of incidents that a "responsible person", including the owner of the lift, was required to notify EMSD within 24 hours. He was worried that the owner of a lift or escalator might not be residing in the same building as the installation, and would not be aware when a lift or escalator incident had occurred. Even when he did, the owner concerned might not have the professional knowledge to identify the nature of the incidents to report to EMSD.</p> <p>Vice President, Building Services Operation and Maintenance Executives Society commented that existing legislation already provided a mechanism of notification for lift or escalator incidents. However, the Bill imposed additional burden on the owners to ensure proper maintenance and safe operation of the installation who, being mostly lay persons, would not have the knowledge and competence to fulfill the responsibility. The Bill was not specific as to whether the owners would be deemed to have discharge their responsibilities by appointing an independent contractor to carry out the technical work.</p> <p>Member, Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees commented that contractors could only act on the instructions of the owners whether to undertake repair or maintenance. Accordingly, it was inevitable that owners would have to be responsible for the safe operation of such installation. He suggested that the Administration should collaborate with the sector to formulate a protocol to suspend operation of a lift to minimize operation risks.</p>	

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		<p>Director, Chun Ming Elevator Co. Ltd. commented that the current maintenance fee level was low compared with the amount and level of works required to be performed by a contractor. Measures to address the cost factors should be considered rather than increasing the level of penalty to address safety issues.</p>	
015757 – 020350	Ms LI Fung-ying Administration	<p>Ms LI's query about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The reason for requiring eight years of experience for a lift worker to register under the proposed legislation, and the ways to address workers' difficulties in obtaining proof of their vocational experience from former employers; (b) Whether the registration fees should be set at a fixed level rather than on a full cost-recovery basis; (c) Whether the new requirement for periodic renewal of registration was unfair to existing lift engineers who were licensed to work on permanent basis; and (d) Whether the Administration would develop protocol to suspend operation of a lift in case of safety risk. <p>Responding to an earlier comment on owners' responsibility in submitting notification to EMSD on any of the lift incident specified in schedule 7 of the Bill, the Administration explained that owners, property managers or operators of a lift would only be required under the Bill to notify EMSD within 24 hours after the incident comes to their knowledge.</p>	
020351 – 020943	Mr LAU Sau-shing The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association	<p>Prof LAU's enquiry about the increase in the maintenance cost of lifts and escalators following the implementation of the Bill, and whether the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (DEMS) had a statutory period within which to respond to a report of lift or escalator.</p> <p>President, Lift and Escalator Contractors Association said that unlike home appliances,</p>	

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		contractors would provide regular inspection and instant repair and replacement of damaged in worn out parts during the maintenance period.	
020944 – 021502	Mr IP Wai-ming Administration	<p>Mr IP's query on :</p> <p>(a) Whether the Administration would clarify the meaning of "responsible person" and the scope of responsibilities of owners, contractors, registered engineers and lift workers under various circumstances or in the event of lift incidents;</p> <p>(b) The rationale of imposing eight years of technical vocational experience for registration of lift workers and whether the requirement of periodic renewal of registration for existing engineers could be waived; and</p> <p>(c) The Administration's position on the proposal of developing a protocol to suspend operation of a lift or escalator when certain unsafe factors were discovered.</p> <p>The Administration's response that whether the operation of a lift or escalator should be suspended depended on whether the installation could be operated safely; and this was a decision that could only be taken by the relevant professional personnel.</p>	
021503 – 022007	Mr LAU Sau-shing Administration	<p>Prof LAU declared interest of having business relationship with many of the deputations and of being chairman of the Tender Committee under the Housing Authority.</p> <p>Prof LAU's query about:</p> <p>(a) The sector's estimation of the increase in maintenance cost following the enactment of the Bill;</p> <p>(b) Whether the Administration would provide any financial assistance; and</p> <p>(c) The measures to enhance training of lift or escalator workers and engineers.</p>	

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		<p>The Administration's response that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Owners who wished to improve or upgrade their lift installations could apply for loans from the Buildings Department; (b) Improving the safety standards of lift or escalator installations might reduce the need and cost of future major maintenance or repairs; (c) The Administration was discussing with training institutions on the provision of relevant programmes and seminars to improve professional skills and knowledge of workers and engineers; and (d) The Administration would discuss with registered contractors to institutionalize existing in-house training and to recognize such training for registration purpose. 	
022008 – 022529	Mr IP Wai-ming Administration	<p>Mr IP repeated his query about the need to clarify the definition of "responsible persons" and the scope of their responsibilities. He also sought the Administration's response on the feasibility of waiving the requirement of existing lift or escalator engineers to renew registration.</p> <p>The Administration's response that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Guidelines would be issued to give responsible persons a better understanding of their statutory duties. In addition, codes of practice would be issued to provide practical guidelines for the statutory requirements; (b) The training requirement should not be a barrier to registration as the programmes and seminars organized by VTC, Labour Department, EMSD; in-house training programmes organized by registered contractors, as well as training courses provided by unions and trade associations would be recognized for registration purpose; 	

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		<p>(c) Existing contractors and engineers that were already included in EMSD's list would automatically be registered when the Bill came into effect; and</p> <p>(d) The eight-year relevant vocational experience requirement was considered appropriate to ensure workers had accumulated wide and sufficient experience required to perform their functions under the Bill. Supplementary courses would be organized by VTC to enable workers meet the qualification requirements.</p>	
022532 – 023028	Ms LI Fung-ying Administration	<p>Ms LI's query on whether :</p> <p>(a) The eight-year experience requirement for registration could be reduced if trade test was the main indicator of qualification for registration as a lift worker; and</p> <p>(b) Any mechanism was in place to record the training hours a worker had received during the five-year period of a registration.</p> <p>The Administration's response that :</p> <p>(a) The current proposal was to stagger the vocational requirement for registration of lift workers with different levels of qualification; and</p> <p>(b) The Administration would provide a training record form for lift workers to complete and submit to EMSD as proof of training received for purpose of registration renewal. The Administration would conduct random check on the validity of training record forms.</p>	
023029 – 023735	Mr LAU Sau-shing The Lift and Escalator Contractors Association	<p>Prof LAU's query on whether contractors would vary the costs of the maintenance contracts when the Bill took effect.</p> <p>President, the Lift and Escalator Contractors Association responded that :</p> <p>(a) While most of the maintenance contracts would not be longer than five years, it was expected that many of these maintenance contracts were still valid when the Bill came into effect;</p>	

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		<p>(b) Lift and escalator contractors would try to accommodate the new statutory requirements as far as possible within the terms of existing contracts;</p> <p>(c) It was inevitable that the cost for new contracts would have to be revised in the light of additional works that needed to be carried out under the Bill, but the increase in cost was expected to be reasonable; and</p> <p>(d) The sector would be able to provide training to enable workers to meet the requisite 30 hours of training over the five-year registration period. Training organizations could issue certificates or documentary proof for registration purpose.</p>	
023736 – 024351	Mr IP Wai-ming Administration	<p>Mr IP's comments that:</p> <p>(a) Eight years' prior work experience for registration was unnecessarily long, particularly when the lift workers could have their qualifications assessed by means of a trade test; and</p> <p>(b) Lift workers should be allowed permanent registration without having to renew registration every five years; the registration fee might pose a financial burden to workers.</p> <p>The Administration's response that :</p> <p>(a) The purpose of periodic registration was to ensure that registered personnel remained professionally active in the field and had continued to improve his technical knowledge; and</p> <p>(b) A registered worker would only pay registration fee once during the five-year period. The exact level of registration fee would have to be determined and given effect through subsidiary legislation.</p>	
024352 – 024620	Schindler Lifts (HK) Ltd.	EI Operations Director, Schindler Lifts (Hong Kong) Ltd. commented that:	

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		<p>(a) Whether the maintenance cost would be increased and reflected in the contract price was still uncertain at the present stage, as the extent to which the increase in operating cost (due to the additional statutory requirement under the Bill) would pass on to lift owners was a matter of negotiation between contractors and clients;</p> <p>(b) Many contractors had certain internal assessment system for newly recruited workers. Workers were normally not allowed to work independently during the first six months, and would only be assigned to independent tasks having satisfied the assessment after the six-month periods; and</p> <p>(c) Under the existing system, a worker was qualified to register with four years' experience. The requirement of having eight years' prior vocational experience for registration under the Bill was considered unnecessary.</p>	
024621 – 024826	Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees	<p>Member, Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees commented that:</p> <p>(a) A registered engineer could carry out maintenance and repair works of both escalators and lifts. However, he might specialize in one type of work during the whole registration period, and might not gain any experience or skill enhancement on the other types of work; and</p> <p>(b) It would be desirable to introduce a clear and standard protocol for suspending the operation of a lift in the event of safety risk. This would avoid unnecessary dispute between the owners and the technical personnel.</p>	
024827 – 024951	Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Electrical) Vocational Training Council	<p>Chief Instructor, Pro-Act Training and Development Centre (Electrical), Vocational Training Council commented that under the current system, qualified workers having undergone apprenticeship in lift maintenance and repair would register with four years' vocational experience.</p>	

Time Marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action Required
		<p>VTC organized supplementary courses for lift workers with six years' vocational experience to enable them to qualify for registration without apprenticeship training.</p> <p>The objective of requiring eight years of vocational experience was to rationalize the system of vocational experience requirements so that a lift worker without formal qualifications could still register after passing a trade test.</p>	
024952 – 025338	Administration	<p>The Administration's response that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The level of registration fees would be kept low as far as practicable; (b) The protocol for suspending operation of a lift or escalator would be specified in the code of practice to be formulated; (c) The eight-year vocational requirement to qualify for registration through a trade test was to provide an extra path for registration. It was not meant to be the mainstream route to obtain professional status; and (d) The duration was determined after thorough consultation with industry stakeholders. 	
025339 – 025625	Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors Association Ltd.	<p>Director, Registered Elevator and Escalator Contractors Association Ltd. commented that lift owners should bear greater responsibility over the state of maintenance as they were in the position to decide whether the installations would be maintained by third party contractors or the original manufacturers. The intense competition among maintenance contractors also posed a risk to the maintenance and safety standard.</p>	
025626 – 030000	Chairman	<p>The Chairman said the schedule of meetings of the Bills committee was tabled for members' reference.</p>	