



Work Safety Alert **Trapped by Moving Parts of Escalator**

1. **Date of Accident :** November 2024
2. **Place of Accident :** A commercial building
3. **Summary :**

While conducting escalator maintenance work, an apprentice fell into an exposed escalator pit and was trapped by moving parts inside. He was certified dead in hospital later on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:

To prevent any workers from being trapped by any moving parts of escalators during maintenance work, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- Ensuring that the main switch of the escalator should be turned off, locked and tagged by the person-in-charge to prevent any sudden movements of machine parts. The escalator cannot be set in motion without (i) the consent of all persons involved in the work and (ii) the person-in-charge's confirmation of the absence of anybody in dangerous places of the escalator;
- if one or more steps or step-treads of the escalator are dismantled and an opening is created along the escalator, ensuring that (i) no worker is allowed to operate and run the escalator on his own and (ii) the worker rides behind the opening so created to perform visual inspection/examination work and the escalator should be operated under the manual control mode;
- ensuring that no worker should enter the escalator truss to carry out any maintenance work unless the main switch to the escalator has been turned off, locked out and tagged, and the escalator is stationary;



- when step, landing plates, combplates or other similar components of an escalator are removed, ensuring that the escalator should never be run for testing or adjustment unless all workers have left the escalator;
- ensuring that apprentices involved in escalator maintenance work are under the direct supervision of qualified registered persons;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the escalator maintenance work; and
- providing all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures.

5. Reference¹ :

- [Code of Practice for Safety at Work \(Lift and Escalator\)](#)
- [Code of Practice for Lift Works and Escalator Works](#)
- [Guidebook for Responsible Persons for Escalators](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents in Lift Installation, Maintenance and Repairing Work](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

¹ Click to view documents



職業安全及健康部
Occupational Safety and Health Branch
 勞工處
Labour Department



DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.