

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

BCA CONDUCTING CHECKS ON LIFTS TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY

SINGAPORE, 11 March 2016 – The recent lift incidents underscore the importance of lift safety. Lift owners, including the Town Councils, are required by law to engage registered lift contractors to maintain their lifts, and lift contractors should do so with due diligence¹. Lift owners play an important role in ensuring that their lifts are maintained in accordance to prevailing standards.

2 While Authorised Examiners (who are professional engineers) have been appointed by lift owners to conduct investigation on the incident lifts and the investigations are still pending, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) is concurrently stepping up efforts to conduct independent audit checks on passenger lifts around Singapore, especially those in HDB flats.

3. While we carry out these audit checks, there will be disruption to some lift operations, and residents may face some inconvenience. In particular, if a lift is found to require further investigation, maintenance or rectification works, BCA will, in the interest of public safety, temporarily suspend the lift's operation for the contractor to carry out the required works. We seek the public's patience and understanding on this. BCA will work closely with the lift owners and contractors to minimise the inconvenience as much as possible.

4 Separately, BCA is working closely with the industry on its ongoing review of lift regulations and standards to ensure that they continue to be relevant and on par with international standards. BCA intends to complete the review, which will include legislative changes, by the end of the year.

Issued by the Building and Construction Authority on 11 March 2016

¹ All passenger lifts for public use are required to be maintained at least once a month under the Building Maintenance and Strata Management (Lift and Building Maintenance) Regulations. Lift owners are required to engage a lift contractor who is registered with BCA to maintain and test their lifts in accordance to the Singapore Standard 550.