

19 June 2001

**EDB Circular No. 23/2001**  
**(Formerly referred as EMB Circular No. 23/2001)**  
**(Formerly referred as Administration Circular No.23/2001)**

**Safety Nets at Stair Wells in School Premises**

[Note : This circular should be read by -  
(a) Supervisors and Heads of all schools - for action; and  
(b) Heads of Sections - for information]

**Summary**

**The purpose of this circular is to inform schools of the necessity of constructing safety nets at stair wells and other kinds of similar light wells.**

**Background**

2. After an inquest into the death of a student falling from height, the Coroner's Court recommended that schools should construct safety nets at stair wells or other kinds of light wells for the prevention of similar accidents.

**Details**

3. Supervisors and Heads of schools should note that stair wells or other kinds of light wells in school premises might pose a risk for students or school users in falling from height. Hence, safety nets should be constructed for every floor for the sake of the safety of students and other school users.

4. Aided primary and secondary schools with stair wells or other kinds of light wells may apply for non-recurrent grants for the installation of the safety nets in their submission for the draft estimates for major repairs/alterations. Please refer to the annual circulars on "Applications for Non-Recurrent Grants: Major Repairs/Alterations" for details about application procedures.

5. If aided schools intend to install the safety nets by using their General Fund/Subscription Account or by donations, they should conduct a study on the nature and scope of works and should appoint an Authorized Person (AP) to carry out the installation. The AP should also be required to ensure that utilities services and structural integrity of the schools would not be affected. Upon completion of the installation of the safety nets, 2 copies of the as-built drawings certified by the AP should be forwarded to the Architectural Services Department or Housing Department through your Senior School Development Officer for record.

6. Private schools with stair wells or other kinds of light wells should construct safety nets as soon as possible. Drawings and photographs of sample safety nets from the Architectural Services Department can be found in our Homepage for schools' reference (address: <http://www.emb.gov.hk/>).

### **Enquiry**

7. For any enquiries on the contents of this circular, please contact your Senior School Development Officer.

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for Director of Education