

# Bringing old lifts up to the mark

Of the eight recommended items on the Building and Construction Authority's list, some are more common than others in Housing Board lifts today.

✔ All HDB lifts    ✔ Most HDB lifts    ✔ Some HDB lifts

## ✔ Ready to rescue

Every Housing Board lift is already equipped with an automatic rescue device. In the event of a power failure, this battery-powered device brings the lift to the nearest landing and opens the doors so passengers are not trapped.

## ✔ Cutting no slack

The governor rope in a lift is a safety mechanism that kicks in when the lift moves too fast. More than 60 per cent of HDB lifts currently have an electrical safety device that detects when the governing rope slackens, and stops the lift, as recommended by the BCA.

## ✔ Door safety

"Light curtains" are beams of infrared light between lift doors that detect objects and stop the doors from closing on them. These are already found in more than 60 per cent of HDB lifts.

## ✔ Getting in touch

The BCA recommends that lifts should have a communication device that lets passengers either notify or talk to someone who can activate an emergency response. All HDB lifts already have an alarm button that not only makes a noise when pressed, but also sends an alert via the HDB's lift tele-monitoring system.

## ✔ Keeping doors shut

For multi-panel lift doors, an interlocking switch for each panel ensures that when the panel is open, the lift will immediately stop moving. Less than half of HDB lifts have this feature.

## ✔ Guarding against falls

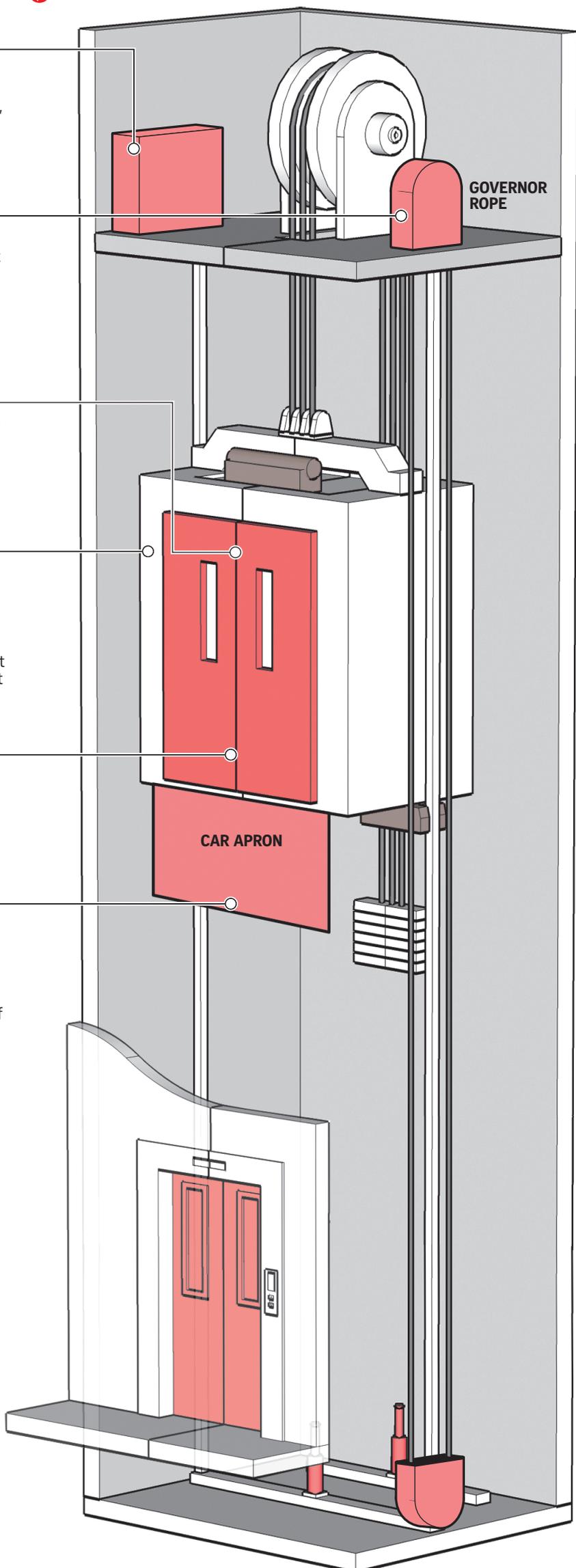
A "car apron" is a vertical sheet extending down from the bottom of the lift car entrance. If the lift stops above the landing, the car apron blocks off the lift shaft, reducing the risk of people falling in. Less than half of HDB lifts have this feature.

## ✔ Safe movement

An "unintended car movement protection" system guards against failures of lift components. It detects when the landing door is not locked and the lift door is not closed, and stops the lift from moving away from the landing. Less than half of HDB lifts have this system.

## ✔ Controlling speed

An "ascending car over speed protection" system detects when an ascending lift car is going too fast, and forces the lift to stop or reduce its speed. Less than half of HDB lifts have this system.



Sources:  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY,  
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

TEXT: JANICE HENG  
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS