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Speak Up for Safety Every Feedback Counts!

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Introduction

Events affecting personnel safety regardless of their severity are unfortunate and many could be prevented. Comprehensive risk assessments detailing each and every work activity in the workplace where all its potential hazards are identified, risks evaluated and risk control measures implemented and communicated, would be the ideal scenario. However, this is still insufficient and every safety and health programme should include receiving feedback from all “persons at work” on safety concerns at the workplace.

Our Aim

Improve safety and well-being of all research personnel working in SingHealth institutions.



Every Feedback Counts!

A feedback from a researcher about a potential trip hazard at the service lift at Academia in October 2016 prompted SingHealth Office of Biosafety (OoB) to verify the safety concern and come up with a solution to mitigate the risks and improve safety. The following stages took place to address the feedback –

Feedback



- Feedback received from researcher regarding a ‘gap’ between the lift landing and lift door frame.
- Safety concern was looked into immediately as the service lift is heavily used to transport hazardous chemicals to the store.

Investigation



- Investigation conducted by OoB revealed that an elevated difference of 1 cm between the lift landing and the lift door frame was the root cause for difficulty in pushing trolleys in/out of the lift.

Proposal

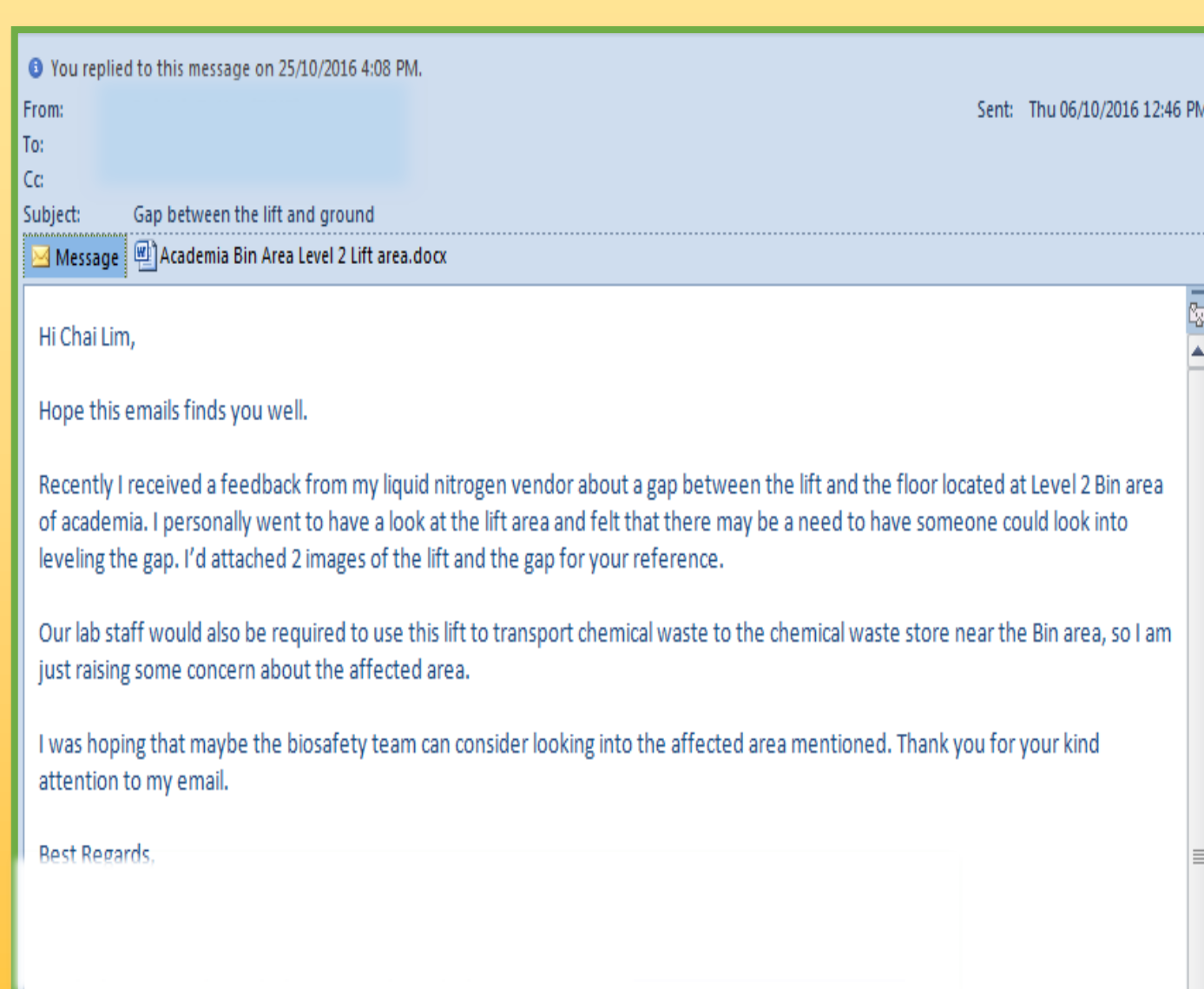


- Safety concern from the investigations were communicated to operational staff with the proposal to improve the workplace.

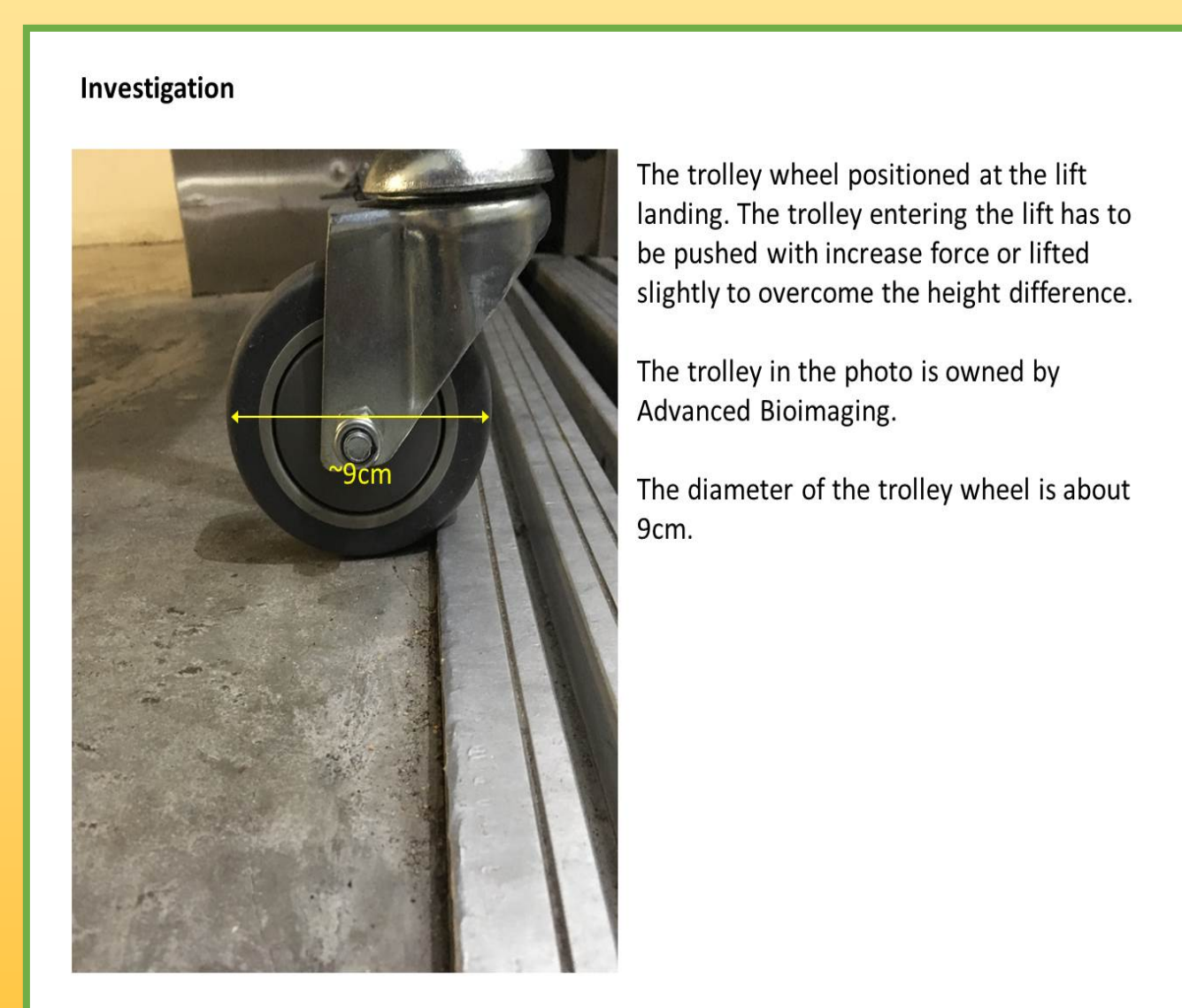
Rectification



- Corrective work carried out to even out the height difference between the lift landing and lift door frame.
- This enables personnel accessing the lift safely when transporting hazardous materials.



Email regarding a safety concern raised by a researcher.



Testing out with actual trolley verified the situation.



Proposal to level the lower lift landing with a slope extending from the door frame.



Height difference between the lift landing and lift door frame evened out.

Results

A timely intervention by SingHealth OoB to a safety concern raised by a researcher led to mitigation of potential risks and prevention of adverse event. Evaluation and rectification of the safety issue is a collaborative effort between the SingHealth OoB and SingHealth Headquarter Group Operations.

Conclusion

Being proactive and speaking up for safety in this case may prevent potential incidents from occurring. No matter is too small to warrant one’s attention.

Acknowledgement

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