



MINISTRY OF
MANPOWER

28 October 2010

Dear CEO/Managing Director/Human Resource Director

EXTENSION OF THE WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT TO ALL WORKPLACES

The Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Act will be extended to all workplaces from September 2011. This underscores the Ministry of Manpower (MOM)'s belief that every worker has a right to a safe and healthy workplace.

2. The WSH Act and its subsidiary legislations require stakeholders to take reasonably practicable measures to ensure the safety and health of employees and other people who are affected by the work being carried out. For example, employers have legal duties under the WSH (Risk Management) Regulations to carry out risk assessment; including identifying risks at the workplace and measures to eliminate or minimise the risks. In addition, employers must report work incidents to MOM if an employee is injured or ill because of work.
3. The extension of the WSH Act to all workplaces was undertaken in phases. In 2006, the WSH Act was enacted to cover all higher-risk workplaces (e.g., factories, construction worksites and shipyards). In 2008, the coverage was extended to six additional sectors. The final phase will be effective from September 2011 where all workplaces will be covered under the WSH Act.
4. Implementing safety and health measures does not have to be expensive, time-consuming or complicated. In fact, safer and healthier practices can often lead to more productive work practices and, more importantly, save lives and limbs of workers. These benefits are clearly evident in workplaces that have been successful in putting in place preventive measures to reduce injuries and ill-health arising from work.
5. To find out more about the WSH Act, the WSH Council together with MOM have put together a series of WSH Clinics, symposiums, roadshows, guidelines, as well as various tools and avenues to assist business owners and employers over the coming year. Further information and registration for the clinics can be found on the WSH Council's website at www.wshc.sg

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

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