



MOM/OSHD/2020-04

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Updated as on 1 Jun 2020

To all Occupiers, Employers, Employees
Training Providers, WSH Officers, and Other Interested Parties

Continued Suspension of In-person WSH Training from 2 Jun 2020

1. From 2 Jun 2020, Singapore will end the Circuit Breaker and embark on Phase One of re-opening businesses¹. However **all in-person WSH training and assessment will continue to be suspended from 2 Jun 2020** until further notice, as a more cautious approach to minimise physical interactions for higher-risk activities. Only training providers approved and notified by SSG will be allowed to conduct specified courses with Safe Management Measures.

Mandatory WSH Training for Work Permit Holders

2. Consequent to the above, the mandatory WSH training for work permit holders will continue to be suspended until further notice. This means that new foreign workers (those holding In-Principal Approval IPA) will be able to have their work permit issued even if they did not attend required the WSH training.

3. For this group of new workers, they can only perform lower-risk activities within the resumed businesses² and under the following conditions:

- (a) Be assigned to work with a buddy who has undergone the required WSH training; and
- (b) Be identified prominently as a new worker (e.g. coloured armband).

4. Similarly, MOM will allow existing work pass holders to renew their work pass without the mandatory WSH training. These requirements will apply until the suspension has been lifted, and the worker has attended the required training within three months (extended from one month previously) after training suspension is lifted.

Continuing Development Training or Refresher Training for Competent Persons

5. All requirements related to continual development training or refresher training for the purpose of renewal of competent persons' registration will still be suspended. This means that existing WSH officers and registered crane operators will be allowed to renew their registration without the required WSH training.

6. There are no changes in training requirement criteria for new applications to be a competent person (e.g. WSH Officer, registered crane operator). This is to ensure that the approved competent persons have the necessary expertise and competency to carry out their functions and duties safely.

7. Lastly, we would like to remind all stakeholders especially those resuming business activities to remain vigilant and ensure the safety and health of your employees at work.

¹ For information on the phased approach for the re-opening of our economy, please refer to [MOH's website](#) and [MTI's website](#).

² For information on resumption of businesses, please refer to <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/>

Frequently Asked Questions

(A) General

1. What is the rationale to continue suspension of all WSH courses?

Phase One (“Safe Re-opening”) will be implemented from 2 Jun 2020. As the risk of resurgence in community transmission remains high, business activities that carry higher risk will remain closed. As such, all in-person WSH training will remain suspended from 2 Jun 2020 to minimise contact between individuals so as to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This is aligned to the Multi-Ministry Taskforce’s announcement on 19 May 2020.

(B) Employers

2. Can the company appoint my worker to operate machinery or carry out high-risk work for the first time if he has not attended the required WSH training?

Employers have a responsibility under the WSH Act to ensure their workers are provided with sufficient instruction, training and supervision so that they can work safely. This is even more critical during this period of crisis. Workers who do not have the necessary training to operate machinery or carry out high-risk work safely must not be deployed to carry out such high-risk work.

3. Will my worker’s work pass be revoked if he cannot go for mandatory training needed for work pass renewal?

No, your existing worker’s work pass will not be revoked, as the mandatory training requirement for work pass renewal has been suspended until further notice.

New workers issued with In-Principal Approval (IPA) Notice from MOM will not be required to attend mandatory training for the issuance of their work permit. Workers will be given three months after the lifting of training suspension to get their required trades certification.

4. Can my experienced worker still work, even though his training certification validity has expired?

Yes, the experienced worker can still proceed to work (only if it is one of the businesses allowed to resume activities) as the refresher training requirement has been suspended until further notice.

5. My First-Aider’s certificate has expired. Can he still perform first-aid if necessary?

Yes, the workplace first aider can still perform his duties during this period when the Occupational First Aid Course is being suspended. You will not be penalised.

6. Can I deploy my new worker to work in the construction site/ factory/ shipyard/ chemical plant if he has not completed his mandatory training?

Yes, you may deploy but you are to ensure that the worker only carry out lower-risk activities. In addition, the employer is required to ensure that the new worker:

- (a) Wears a prominent identification e.g. arm band for at least 6 months to indicate that he is a new worker;

(b) Is assigned a buddy to be attached at all time on site. This interim condition will continue until the new worker attends and passes the mandatory training.

This is subjected to the workplace being allowed to resume their business activities. Workers will be given three months after the lifting of training suspension to get their required trades certification.

7. Will the training requirements for new application of WSH licenses be waived?

There are no changes in existing training requirements for new application of WSH licenses (e.g. WSHO officer, crane operator, approved scaffold contractor, approved crane contractor).

This is to ensure the approved competent persons and WSH service providers have the necessary competencies to carry out their specified WSH functions and duties safely.

(B) Employees

8. Will my work pass be revoked if I cannot attend mandatory training required for work pass renewal?

No, your work pass will not be revoked, as the mandatory training requirement for work pass renewal has been suspended until further notice.

Please ignore the requirement in the In-Principal Approval Notice from MOM for you to attend mandatory safety orientation training, as we have suspended the requirement. You will be given three months after the lifting of training suspension to get your required trades certification.

9. The suspension is affecting my ongoing course, which takes three to six months to complete, what should I do?

All ongoing classes will resume once the suspension is lifted. You can contact your training providers for more information.

10. Can I renew my crane operator registration if I am unable to attend WESCO?

Yes, you will be able to renew your crane operator licence even if you did not attend the WESCO.

For crane operators aged 50 years and above, medical examination requirements for registration renewal will also be temporarily suspended. Please refer to [MOM website](#) for more information.

11. Can I renew my WSHO registration if my courses with SDU points are suspended?

Yes, WSHOs will be allowed to renew their registration even if they do not have sufficient SDU points. However, WSHOs will still need to submit renewal application with other items e.g. WSH employment, WSH activities for unstructured SDU points. Please refer to [MOM website](#) for more information.

(D) Training Providers (ATOs and LSPs)

12. Can we continue to teach the courses if we move the training online to eliminate the need for face-to-face interaction?

The online learning mode is only allowable for theory-based courses. Online format will not be able to replace courses that involve practical component.

MOM/WSHC may consider allowing online training to proceed if a proposal is submitted and approved.

13. Do I need to seek approval if I want to conduct online courses? If yes, whose approval should we be seeking and what would be the procedure (and timeline)?

MOM/WSHC's approval is needed for a training provider to proceed to conduct online courses. Please submit your proposal to wsh_training@wshc.sg for our review.

14. Will the validity of my ATO/LSP status be extended to cover the period of suspension?

No, there will not be an extension to the validity of ATO/LSP status.

15. Will I continue to be audited by SSG/SAC-CBs during the period of suspension?

There will be no physical surveillance audits conducted during the period of suspension.

16. How do we deal with courses that are affected by the suspension?

Training Providers are required to notify all affected trainees of the suspension.

17. When will the suspension last?

The suspension will continue from 2 Jun 2020 until further notice. The lifting of the suspension will depend on the level of community spread of Covid-19 in Phase One. MOM/WSHC/SSG will provide updates to training providers from time to time.

18. Will financial assistance be provided to affected training providers during this suspension period?

Other than measures announced by the government to support businesses and individuals, there is no additional financial assistance plan that will be provided to training providers.

19. Will I be able to conduct in-person assessment for WSH Courses taught online?

In-person assessment is suspended from 2 Jun 2020 until further notice.

(E) Certification Bodies accredited by SAC

20. Do we proceed with the certification and surveillance audits, especially if we could move the process online?

All certification and surveillance audits should be suspended until further notice.

21. Should we certify new LSPs during this period?

Certification of new LSPs should be suspended until further notice.