

Dear Employment Agencies

We will like to share with you on the upcoming new measures that will be introduced to facilitate the retention of Work Permit Holders (WPHs) and meet employers' manpower needs in the Construction, Marine Shipyard and Process (CMP) sectors during this COVID-19 period:

A. Extending the retention scheme in the Construction sector to the Marine Shipyard and Process sectors: Under the current retention scheme for the Construction sector (in place from 1 Sep 2021 till 28 Feb 2022, subject to further review), the Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL) will facilitate job-matching for WPHs whose employment have been terminated but wish to continue working in Singapore to prospective new employers. This is to help facilitate the retention of experienced WPHs and help companies meet their manpower needs during this COVID-19 period.

MOM has partnered the Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI) and Association of Process Industry (ASPRI) to extend the retention scheme to the Marine Shipyard and Process sectors, which are facing similar manpower challenges. The associations will share more details of their respective schemes when ready.

B. Adjusting the Change of Employer (COE) without consent period for WPHs in the CMP sectors from the 21 to 40 day period before work permit expiry to 30 days after work permit expiry, subject to the mutual agreement between the WPH and the employer: This is to better address the needs of employers and workers. The employer can retain the worker in employment for up to 30 days after the expiry of the work permit, while the worker use this 30-day period to find a new employer and thereafter make the transfer without the need for the consent of the original employer. Should there be no mutual agreement to this 30-day extension period, the worker will be enrolled in the retention scheme.

This adjustment will be implemented progressively across sectors from 8 November 2021 in the Construction sector, and from a later date in the Marine Process and Shipyard sectors. It will be in place as long as the retention schemes are in force. The associations will share more details when ready.

2. More details are in this [press release](#). We seek your support for these measures that are intended to help both migrant workers and employers during this period.

Ministry of Manpower