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Date: 18 March 2013

**All Owners of Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) and Steam Boiler (SB),
ICE Engineer and ICE Driver,
SB Engineer and SB Attendant, and
Other Interested Parties**

CIRCULAR ON REVOCATION OF THE FACTORIES (PERSONS-IN-CHARGE) REGULATIONS AND FACTORIES (CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY–EXAMINATIONS) REGULATIONS

Introduction

Currently, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has two specific regulations to govern the operational safety of Internal Combustion Engines (ICEs) and Steam Boilers (SBs). The Factories (Persons-in-Charge) Regulations legislates the requirements of the competent persons operating ICEs and SBs. The Factories (Certificate of Competency-Examinations) Regulations governs the conduct of examinations and the issuance of the lifetime Certificate of Competency (COC) by MOM.

2 These regulations were first enacted in the 1960s when ICEs and SBs were operated manually. Over the years, manual operations have advanced to the use of automation and monitoring devices to ensure that ICEs and SBs operate within safe limits. On the regulatory front, since 2006, MOM has also progressed from the prescriptive legislative landscape under the previous Factories Act, to a performance-based regime under the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSH Act).

Revocation of the Factories (Persons-in-Charge) Regulations and Factories (Certificate of Competency – Examinations) Regulations

3. Taking the advances in technology and the performance-based WSH Act into consideration, MOM has reviewed and will make changes to the regulatory regime governing the safe operation of ICEs and SBs. With effect from **18 March 2013**, the Factories (Persons-in-Charge) Regulations and Factories (Certificate of Competency-Examinations) Regulations will be revoked. Following the revocation of the two said regulations:

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- i. MOM will no longer issue or require applications under COC for the following list of competent persons:
 - 1st and 2nd Class ICE Driver and 1st and 2nd Grade ICE Engineer,
 - 1st and 2nd Class SB Attendant and 1st and 2nd Grade SB Engineer.
- ii. COCs of both ICE and SB previously issued by MOM will continue to be valid till the certificate-holders cease active duty at the workplace.

Requirements for Safe Operations of ICE and SB under WSH Act

4. The current WSH Act and its subsidiary legislation in place will ensure continued oversight on the safe operation of ICEs and SBs at workplaces. Details are as follows:

For ICE

5. Section 12(3) of the WSH Act requires the employer to ensure that his workers have been adequately trained to carry out work safely – this would ensure that workers are adequately trained to safely operate the ICE.

- Training provided by the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and his designated Authorised Distributors are deemed to meet the regulatory training requirements for workers operating ICE.
- On-the-job training (OJT) would also be acceptable if the employer can demonstrate that the OJT is comparable in content and rigor to the training provided by the OEM.

For SB

6. Regulation 28(8) of the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations requires the owner of a SB used in a workplace to ensure that only a competent person who has attended a training course acceptable to the Commissioner is allowed to operate the SB.

- The types of training courses a person needs to attend before operating a SB would depend on the heating surface area of the SB.
- The operating requirement based on the heating surface area of the SB and the types of training courses on operation of SB that are acceptable to the Commissioner are given in Annex A.

7. For further clarification on the matter above, you can contact us at mom_oshd@mom.gov.sg or 6438 5122.

Yours faithfully,



ER. MOHD ISMADI

for COMMISSIONER FOR WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH
 OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION, MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

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|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
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Table 1 – Manning Requirement for Operation of Steam Boiler

| S/n | SB Heating Surface Area ¹ (m ²) | Manning Requirements | Additional Requirements |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 1 | 50m ² or less | At least one 1 st or 2 nd Class SB Attendant shall be in charge during each shift. | As stipulated in footnote ² . |
| 2 | More than 50m ² up to 200m ² | At least one 1 st Class SB Attendant shall be in charge during each shift. | As stipulated in footnote ² . |
| 3 | More than 200m ² up to 500m ² | At least one 2 nd Grade SB Engineer shall be in charge during each shift | Shall be assisted by a 1 st or 2 nd Class SB Attendant and requirement in footnote ² shall apply. |
| 4 | More than 500m ² | At least one 1 st Grade SB Engineer shall, unless the Commissioner otherwise directs, be in charge. | Shall be assisted during each shift by a 1 st or 2 nd Grade SB Engineers and by as many 1 st or 2 nd Class SB Attendants and requirement in footnote ² shall apply. |

Table 2 – Training Courses Acceptable to the Commissioner for Operation of Steam Boiler

| S/n | Personnel | Training Course |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 nd Class SB Attendant | Successfully completed the 2 nd Class Steam Boiler Attendant course conducted by Singapore Polytechnic |
| 2 | 1 st Class SB Attendant | Successfully completed the 1 st Class Steam Boiler Attendant course conducted by Singapore Polytechnic |
| 3 | 2 nd Grade SB Engineer | Successfully completed the 2 nd Grade Steam Boiler Engineer course ³ conducted by Singapore Polytechnic |
| 4 | 1 st Grade SB Engineer | Successfully completed the 1 st Grade Steam Boiler Engineer course ³ conducted by Singapore Polytechnic |

¹ This refers to the heating surface of a SB or the aggregate heating surface of SBs connected to a common range measured in terms of square metres (sqm).

² Where more than one SB is connected to a common range, the SB Attendant in charge shall be assisted during each shift by as many SB Attendants as shall be sufficient such that one SB Attendant can only take charge of a maximum of 2 SBs.

³ The course consists of 5 modules. A person needs to complete the 5 modules (unless exemption given) in order to be considered to have successfully completed the course.