

EA Alert Dated: 22 May 2017

EA Alert: Provide your Clients (FDWs) with Proper Accommodation

As your EA places foreign domestic workers (FDWs), we wish to remind you about the importance of providing acceptable accommodation for FDWs who are in-transit prior to or in between placements. The guidelines in this EA Alert supersede the previous set of guidelines issued via EA Alert in February 2015.

2. MOM has taken enforcement actions against EAs which fail to provide proper accommodation to their FDW clients. Here are some examples:

- May 2016 : 28 EAs were found to be providing housing which was overcrowded, with FDWs sharing mattresses. There were rodent and bedbug infestations, as well as safety and fire breaches.
- Aug 2015: 3 EAs were found to be providing cramped housing that had inadequate ventilation.

3. We wish to remind all EAs of your responsibility to provide proper accommodation to the FDWs when they are housed with you. The accommodation should meet the following requirements:

- a. Regulatory approval and compliance. The accommodation must adhere to applicable regulations or guidelines issued by the relevant public agencies. The accommodation must not breach the allowed residency load or occupancy load specified for the premises.
- b. Adequate shelter. The accommodation must adequately protect the FDW from environmental elements such as the sun, rain or strong winds.
- c. Safe. The FDW should not sleep near any dangerous equipment or structure that could potentially cause harm or hurt to her. The emergency exit routes must not be obstructed.
- d. Sufficient ventilation and lighting. The accommodation must be sufficiently ventilated and adequately lit. Mechanical ventilation (e.g. electrical fan) should be provided if natural ventilation is inadequate.
- e. Basic amenities. Toiletries must be provided. Each FDW must minimally be provided with one mattress, a covered pillow, and a blanket; these must be clean.
- f. Hygiene. There must be proper rubbish disposal areas that are properly managed. There should be no stagnant water points and pest infestation.
- g. Protection of modesty. The FDW must not sleep in the same room as a male adult / teenager. CCTVs must not be installed in the bathroom or sleeping area.
- h. Space and privacy. Sufficient space and privacy should be provided for the FDW.
- i. Basic Housekeeping. There must be proper management and housekeeping of the premises, including maintenance of sanitary facilities.

4. To ensure that all these requirements are met, your EA may consider commercial housing arrangements such as FDW dormitories. Do note that if your EA engages the services of a non-EA, third-party operator to provide accommodation to the FDWs-in-transit, you should communicate the above requirements in Para 3 to the third-party operator.

5. MOM will be stepping up our checks on EA's interim housing. EAs that fail to provide (or ensure that the third-party operators provide) proper accommodation may be fined up to \$5,000 or jailed up to 6 months. EAs may also be given demerit points or have their licence revoked and security deposit forfeited.

6. EAs are required to ensure that the addresses of all interim housing are updated in [Register FDW Interim Address](#). You must register these addresses with MOM within 5 working days of its use, and deregister within 30 working days of cessation of use. The registration of addresses is for record and contact tracing purposes. A successful registration does not mean that MOM has approved the use of the premises to house FDWs-in-transit. You are responsible for ensuring that your interim housing adheres to the prevailing rules and regulations set by agencies such as the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Housing Development Board, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Public Utility Board, Building & Construction Authority, and National Environment Agency.

7. MOM will continue to share important EA-related information with all EAs through this channel. Please keep your EA's email address updated. For further clarification, you may call 6438 5122 or email MOM_FMMD@mom.gov.sg. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

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