



18 January 2017

## **MEDIA FACTSHEET**

### **Transition of MOM's Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Courses to the Workforce Skill Qualification (WSQ) System**

1 Under the WSH 2018 Plus plan, a key priority to improve WSH standards is to strengthen WSH competency. A workforce competent and skilled in managing workplace safety and health is critical to deliver sustained improvement in Singapore's WSH performance across all sectors.

2 Safety training is a key enabler in accident prevention. MOM and the WSH Council have been working to align industry standards for service providers offering accredited MOM safety courses. Improved training outcomes that emphasise a more hands-on component in the mandatory safety course curricula for workers, supervisors and managers as required under the WSH Act, has been another area of review.

#### **Migrating WSH Courses to WSQ system**

3 To raise the pedagogical quality of the courses and move towards competency-based training and assessment, WSH training courses under MOM's Accredited Training Provider (ATP) scheme are being transitioned to the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) system in phases. The WSQ system is a national credential system under SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) designed to promote the recognition and professionalisation of skills and competencies. Appointed Training Organisations (ATOs) under the WSQ Framework are required to have strong and sound pedagogical knowledge and instructional design capability, and have the capacity to continually develop progressive adult training courses.

4 The transition to the WSQ system will provide workers with nationally recognised credentials. Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents will also be able to tap on the relevant funding for the courses.

5 In the interim, MOM has adopted the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) Accreditation Scheme in October 2014, in line with the move to raise the quality of training providers. The SAC Accreditation Scheme replaces the MOM ATP scheme. WSH Training Providers will have to meet ISO 29990:2010 standards in addition to other requirements stipulated by MOM by July 2017.

#### **Call for Proposal exercises to appoint suitable training providers**

6 Potential ATPs are evaluated by SSG and MOM based on their proposed submissions. Evaluation criteria include:

- Corporate governance,
- Provision of training facilities,
- Curriculum and pedagogical innovation,
- Implementation plan,
- Credentials, experience & track record,
- Financial practices,
- Course fees, and
- Management systems.

8 A total of 21 training providers were appointed as “Approved Training Organisations” (ATOs) through both exercises. The ATOs include a mix of SMEs, medium-sized training providers, trade associations and government-linked institutions.

9 Certification obtained from courses under the MOM ATP scheme remains valid and trainees are not required to obtain any re-certification.

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