issue 02 | mar '12

A Ministry of Manpower (MOM) publication for foreign workers in Singapore.

working in Singapore

CONNECTING FOREIGN WORKERS IN SINGAPORE

a note from the Ministry of Manpower

Dear Readers,

We hope you had time to read the first issue of this newsletter, which we gave out in December 2011.

"Working in Singapore" hopes to share useful information about working and living in Singapore. In the first issue, we shared about fake work permit cards, gave examples of unacceptable housing and talked about a fellow foreign worker who took part in and won a singing contest in Singapore.

For this second issue, we will share about illegal employment offences and how to get help if you want to claim for a work injury. There are also useful telephone numbers you can call to seek help and courses you can take to upgrade your skills.

If you have ideas and suggestions for this newsletter, write to us.

This newsletter is available in English, Mandarin, Tamil and Bengali.

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Upgrade Your Skills

MWC: *A Lifeline for Foreign Workers*

Despite being far away from home, Foreign Workers (FWs) have a place to turn to for support and care. The Migrant Workers Centre (MWC), a non-governmental organisation, was set up in April 2009 to promote fair employment practices and workers' well-being. Since its opening, MWC has assisted 2,700 FWs and reached out to about 80,000 FWs through its integration events and other programmes.

To round off its year-long activities, MWC held its 2nd International Migrant's Day celebration on 20 December 2011 at NTUC Centre in One Marina Boulevard. The festive occasion featured a musical performance about the struggles of an Indian FW, as well as his determination to build a better life for his family back home. A photo exhibition was also unveiled, displaying 30 photographs of FWs @ Work, Live and Play.

"This celebration makes me feel valued," said Sandeep Singh, a 25-year-old FW under MWC's care. "I am very happy about the celebration."

Through the event, which was attended by 80 guests including Minister of State for Manpower Tan Chuan-Jin, MWC hopes that there can be greater understanding and acceptance of FWs.

If you need assistance, visit MWC at **62 Rangoon Road (S) 218352** or call **6536 2692**.

Foreign Workers

CAUGHT

WORKING PART-TIME AND FREELANCING

In December 2011, MOM caught two Work Permit holders and one S Pass holder who were working illegally as barbers at Jalan Suka. Cui Bai Jian, holding a Work Permit in the construction sector, was one of those caught. He was supposed to be working as a construction worker, as stated in his Work Permit card.

Remember, you must only work for the employer and occupation, as stated in your Work Permit card. Even if you have free time, you cannot work in other jobs to earn extra money. If you see such wrong behaviour, report to MOM immediately. If your employer makes you work in a job that's different from the one stated in your Work Permit card, you must also report to MOM.

Under your Work Permit Conditions, you can be fined up to $15,000 and/or jailed up to 12 months, for working illegally. In 2011, MOM caught 1,102 foreigners working without a valid work pass. When caught and found guilty, you may be fined, sent home and not allowed to come back to work in Singapore.

INJURED AT WORK?

Claim for Work Injury Compensation

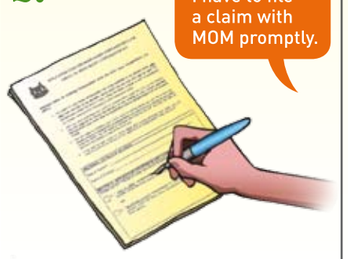
If you are injured in a work accident, you are entitled to claim work injury compensation from your employer.

Steps to Claim

1. I injured myself while working.

Report the accident to your employer/supervisor as soon as possible.

2. I have to file a claim with MOM promptly.



File a Work Injury Compensation Claim within 1 year from accident.

3. We will send your medical report to MOM.

Go for medical assessment

4. You, your employer and the insurer will receive a Notice of Assessment from MOM.

Receive Assessment of Compensation Payable

5. I shall pay the compensation amount within 21 days.

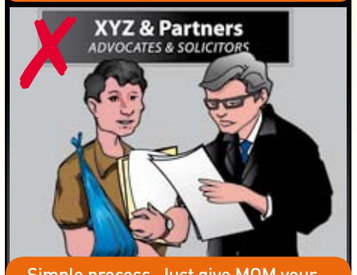
If there are objections, MOM will facilitate their resolution.

Settle Work Injury Compensation Claim

Tips on Filing Claim

DON'T REQUIRE A LAWYER. MOM CAN HELP.

Go directly to MOM. No fee.



Simple process. Just give MOM your contact number, employer's name and the date of accident.

TIP Your employer wants to send you home against your wish before your claim is settled? Come to MOM. We can help you.

Employer JAILED

for Breaking MOM's Rules

Are your salaries paid promptly? Are you paid for overtime work? In December 2011, a 50-year-old Singaporean, Mr Lim Seong Ong, Director of Asia Link Marine Industries Pte Ltd, was jailed for eight weeks and fined $8,000. Mr Lim was in charge of running the operations of the company, which included recruitment of Foreign Workers (FWs). He gave false information to MOM so that the company could employ more FWs. He also did not pay the workers on time and had failed to pay additional payments for overtime work.

Mr Lim knew he was breaking MOM's rules but he chose to continue the wrongdoings.

Whether you are a worker or an employer, MOM will take action against you for breaking the rules. So, if your employer does not pay you on time, or does not pay for the hours worked, you must report your case to MOM.

did you KNOW?

DRUG TRAFFICKING = JAIL/ DEATH

It is an offence to take, possess, sell, give, deliver and distribute drugs. Drug trafficking is a serious offence and the maximum penalty is death.

DON'T DO IT!

Report any suspicious drug activity to the **Central Narcotics Bureau** at **1800 325 6666**.

It is An Offence to Conduct Employment Agency Activities without a Licence

This means that it is illegal to help in the placement of job applicants to work for any employer by:

- ✗ Speaking to or collecting any document, including bio data, from any job applicant for the purpose of helping them find jobs
- ✗ Handing in work pass applications on behalf of any employer or job applicant

Anyone found involved in any of the above without a licence may be fined up to **$80,000** and/or **jailed for two years**.

If you know of anyone who may be carrying out illegal employment agency activities, please call the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) at **6438 5122**.

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YOUR SAY

This newsletter is for all foreign workers in Singapore. We welcome feedback, queries or interesting ideas you may want to share with your fellow workers.

Send your letters to WORKING IN SINGAPORE, Ministry of Manpower, Foreign Manpower Management Division, 120 Kim Seng Road Block H Singapore 239436.

Please include your full name, work permit number and phone number.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Cut this out and store these numbers in your wallet or handphone for help or emergency.

Call Ministry of Manpower (MOM)	6438 5122
OTHER EMERGENCY LINES	
Police	999
Ambulance/Fire	995
EMBASSIES & HIGH COMMISSIONS	
Bangladesh	6255 0075
China	6412 1900
India	6238 2550
Indonesia	6737 7422
Malaysia	6235 0111
Myanmar	6735 1672
Pakistan	6737 6988
Philippines	6737 3977
Sri Lanka	6254 4595
Thailand	6737 2644
OTHER HELPLINES	
Samaritans of Singapore	1800 2214 444
Migrant Workers' Center	6536 2692
Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics	
Hotline for female workers (24-hour)	6341 5525
Hotline for male workers (24-hour)	6341 5535
Transient Workers Count Too	1800 888 1515

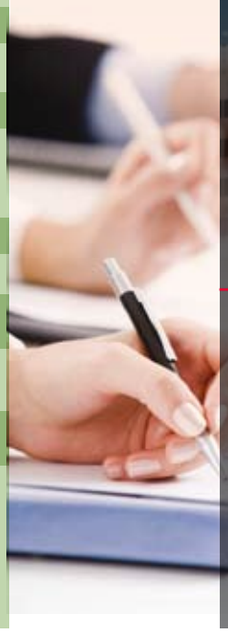
LOOK OUT for MOM's Roadshows!

Get ready for fun-filled activities as MOM visits your area.

HIGHLIGHTS:

6 educational game booths by the Foreign Manpower Management Division, Workplace Safety and Health Council, National Environment Agency and Singapore Police Force

UPGRADE YOUR SKILLS



Electronics Industries Training Centre

www.elitc.com
Tel: 6483 2535

- Workplace English for Foreign Workers (Elementary)
- Generic Manufacturing Skills
- Apply Workplace Safety & Health Policy
- Use Basic Hand Tools & Equipment

Mun Siong Engineering Limited

http://www.mun-siong.com/ourbusiness/skillstraining
Tel: 6411 6570

- Rigging & Material Handling Skills
- General Fitting Skills
- Oil/Petroleum Industries Safety Orientation Course for Workers
- Riggers Course
- Signalmen Course

Singapore Manufacturers' Federation

http://www.smaccl.sg/index.php/courses/
Tel: 6826 3100

- Forklift Operator's Refresher Course
- Use Hand Tools
- Workplace Safety & Health Practices
- Skills Certificate in Warehousing & Distribution