



**MOM/OSHD/2020-04**

**6 Apr 2020**

To all Occupiers, Employers, Employees  
Training Providers, WSH Officers, and Other Interested Parties

## **In-person WSH Training is suspended from 7 Apr 2020**

1. As part of the Government's efforts against the escalating COVID-19 situation, **all in-person WSH training will be suspended** from 7 Apr 2020 to 4 May 2020 to minimise physical interactions and support the national "circuit breaker" effort. This period will be subject to further review.

### **Mandatory WSH Training for Work Permit Holders**

2. Consequent to the above, the mandatory WSH training for work permit holders will be suspended until further notice. This means that new foreign workers (those holding In-Principal Approval IPA) will be able to have their work permit issued even if they did not attend required the WSH training.

3. For this group of new workers, they can only perform lower-risk activities within the essential services<sup>1</sup> and under the following conditions:

- i) Be assigned to work with a buddy who has undergone the required WSH training; and
- ii) Be identified prominently as a new worker (e.g. coloured armband).

4. Similarly, MOM will allow existing work pass holders to renew their work pass without the mandatory WSH training. These requirements will apply until the suspension has been lifted, and the worker has attended the required training within 1 month of the lifting.

### **Continuing Development Training or Refresher Training for Competent Persons**

5. In addition, all requirement related to continuing development training or refresher training for the purpose of renewal of competent persons' registration will also be suspended. This means that existing WSH officers and registered crane operators will be allowed to renew their registration without the required WSH training.

6. There are no changes in training requirement criteria for new application to be a competent person (e.g. WSH Officer, registered crane operator). This is to ensure that the approved competent persons have the necessary expertise and competency to carry out their functions and duties safely.

7. Lastly, we would like to remind all stakeholders especially those providing essential services during this difficult period to remain vigilant and ensure the safety and health of your employees at work.

---

<sup>1</sup> This is dependant on whether the workplace premise is closed as per the government's announcement <https://www.gov.sg/article/covid-19-circuit-breaker-heightened-safe-distancing-measures-to-reduce-movement>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### (A) General

#### 1. What is the rationale for suspending all WSH courses?

The suspension of in-person WSH training course is put in place to minimise contact between individuals so as to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This is aligned to government's circuit breaker announcement on 3 Apr 2020

### (B) Employers

#### 2. Can the company appoint my worker to operate machinery or carry out high-risk work for the first time if he has not attended the required WSH training?

Employers have a responsibility under the WSH Act to ensure their workers are provided with sufficient instruction, training and supervision so that they can work safely. This is even more critical during this period of crisis. Workers who do not have the necessary training to operate machinery or carry out high-risk work safely must not be deployed to carry out such high-risk work.

#### 3. Will my worker's work pass be revoked if he cannot go for mandatory training needed for work pass renewal?

No, your existing worker's work pass will not be revoked, as the mandatory training requirement for work pass renewal has been suspended until further notice.

New workers issued with In-Principal Approval (IPA) Notice from MOM will not be required to attend mandatory training for the issuance of their work permit. Workers will be given 1 month after the lifting of the additional measures to get their required trades certification.

#### 4. Can my experienced worker still work, even though his training certification validity has expired?

Yes, the experienced worker can still proceed to work (only if it is an essential service) as the refresher training requirement has been suspended until further notice.

#### 5. My First-Aider's certificate has expired. Can he still perform first-aid if necessary?

Yes, the workplace first aider can still perform his duties during this period when the Occupational First Aid Course is being suspended. You will not be penalised.

#### 6. Can I deploy my new worker to work in the construction site/ factory/ shipyard/ chemical plant if he has not completed his mandatory training?

Yes, you may deploy but you are to ensure that the worker only carry out lower-risk activities. In addition the employer is required to ensure that the new worker:

- a) Wears a prominent identification e.g. arm band for at least 6 months to indicate that he is a new worker;
- b) Is assigned a buddy to be attached at all time on site. This interim condition will continue until the new worker attends and passes the mandatory training.

This is subject to the workplace being allowed to continue their business as an essential service. Workers will be given 1 month after the lifting of the circuit breaker to get their required trades certification.

#### **7. Will the training requirements for new application of WSH licenses be waived?**

There are no changes in existing training requirements for new application of WSH licenses (e.g. WSHO officer, crane operator, approved scaffold contractor, approved crane contractor).

This is to ensure the approved competent persons and WSH service providers have the necessary competencies to carry out their specified WSH functions and duties safely.

### **(B) Employees**

#### **8. Will my work pass be revoked if I cannot go for mandatory training needed for work pass renewal?**

No, your work pass will not be revoked, as the mandatory training requirement for work pass renewal has been suspended until further notice.

Please ignore the requirement in the In-Principal Approval Notice from MOM for you to attend mandatory safety orientation training, as we have suspended the requirement. You will be given 1 month after the lifting of the circuit breaker to get your required trades certification.

#### **9. The suspension is affecting my ongoing course, which take 3 to 6 months to complete, what should I do?**

All ongoing classes will resumed once the suspension is lifted. You can contact your training providers for more information.

#### **10. Can I renew my crane operator registration if I am unable to attend WESCO?**

Yes, you will be able to renew your crane operator licence even if you did not attend the WESCO.

For crane operators aged 50 years and above, medical examination requirements for registration renewal will also be temporarily suspended.

#### **11. Can I renew my WSHO registration if my courses with SDU points are suspended?**

Yes, WSHOs will be allowed to renew their registration even if they do not have sufficient SDU points. However, WSHOs will still need to submit renewal application with other items e.g. WSH employment, WSH activities for unstructured SDU points.

## (D) Training Providers (ATOs and LSPs)

**12. Can we continue to teach the courses if we move the training online to eliminate the need for face-to-face interaction?**

The online learning mode is only allowable for theory-based courses. Online format will not be able to replace courses that involve practical component.

MOM/WSHC may consider allowing online training to proceed if a proposal is submitted and approved.

**13. Do I need to seek approval if I want to conduct online courses? If yes, whose approval should we be seeking and what would be the procedure (and timeline)?**

MOM/WSHC's approval is needed for a training provider to proceed to conduct online courses. Please submit your proposal to [wsh\\_training@wshc.sg](mailto:wsh_training@wshc.sg) for our review.

**14. For classes that have already commenced/trainees registered and confirmed, can we proceed with the classes by adopting social distancing measures?**

No, all in-person training and classes, including those that have commenced are to be suspended with effect from 7 April. Training providers may choose to continue the remaining part of the courses when the situation stabilises and MOM/WSHC/SSG gives the approval to proceed with training.

**15. Will the validity of my ATO/LSP status be extended to cover the period of suspension?**

No, there will not be an extension to the validity of ATO/LSP status.

**16. Will I continue to be audited by SSG/SAC-CBs during the period of suspension?**

There will be no physical surveillance audits conducted during the period of suspension.

**17. How do we deal with courses that are affected by the suspension?**

Training Providers are required to notify all affected trainees of the suspension.

**18. When will the suspension last?**

The suspension will be effective from 7 Apr 2020. The lifting of the suspension will depend on the period of the circuit breaker. MOM/WSHC/SSG will provide updates to training providers from time to time.

**19. Will financial assistance be provided to affected training providers during this suspension period?**

Other than measures announced by the government to support businesses and individuals, there is no additional financial assistance plan that will be provided to training providers.

**(E) Certification Bodies accredited by SAC**

**20. Do we proceed with the certification and surveillance audits, especially if we could move the process online?**

All certification and surveillance audits should be suspended until further notice.

**21. Should we certify new LSPs during this period?**

Certification of new LSPs should be suspended until further notice.