

WSHAC PRESS RELEASE

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30 August 2006

The Workplace Safety and Health (Risk Management) Regulations will take effect from 1 September 2006. Risk management, which involves assessing risks at workplaces and putting control measures in place, is a cornerstone in ensuring good workplace safety and health (WSH) standards and a strong accident preventive culture in the workplace. Hence, the Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Committee (WSHAC) strongly encourages companies to proactively play their part in implementing risk management to minimise or eliminate risks at workplaces and safeguard the lives of their employees.

2 To help the industry implement risk management, the WSHAC has been working with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and industry associations to heighten awareness and knowledge on risk management through Information Sharing Sessions, workshops and reference materials. Since February 2006, WSHAC has organised five Information Sharing Sessions with risk management as one of the main topics for all the key industries.¹

3 Risk management workshops are another avenue through which the WSHAC and industry associations, with the support of MOM, educate industry stakeholders on risk management as well as work with them to develop Risk Management Compendiums for work in various industries, such as scaffolds and metal works. The Compendiums, once completed, will be shared in another series of workshops to help companies implement risk management in a more comprehensive manner. To further assist smaller companies, WSHAC is working with MOM and other government agencies to reach Small and Medium Enterprises, especially those in industrial estates,

4 Recognising that workers too play a role in risk management, the WSHAC also collaborated with Cameron International to organise a worker's art competition with risk management as the theme. In the competition's first run, more than 200 workers

¹ The five sessions were held on 15 Feb, 20 March, 25 May, 11 July and 18 August.

submitted entries about Risk Management in their day-to-day work, showing that workers are aware of how to play their part. Following the inaugural success, the competition is now in its second run. Going forward, for a more educated workforce, WSHAC is incorporating Risk Management in WSH training courses to equip the workforce with the necessary competencies to effectively implement Risk Management.

5 The WSHAC believes that, with sufficient support, companies can effectively implement Risk Management. It strongly encourages companies which have yet to implement Risk Management to take the first step and seek support from MOM and industry associations.

About Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Committee

The Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Committee (WSHAC) was formed on 1 September 2005, to help galvanise industry efforts to raise workplace safety and health standards in Singapore. The 14-member strong advisory committee comprises leaders from across the major industry sectors, including oil and gas, construction, manufacturing, property development, legal, insurance, academia, unions and associations.

The role of the advisory committee is to advise Ministry of Manpower on Workplace Safety and Health standards, promotion and training and address the unique challenges of key sectors. The WSHAC incorporates 4 industry-specific sub-committees, in the areas of construction, metalworking, shipbuilding & ship-repairing and healthcare. The Committee focuses on securing industry participation and ownership through a broad range of initiatives to significantly raise workplace safety and health standards in Singapore, in order to achieve the objective of halving the 2004 work-related fatality rate by 2015.