

Annex B

Factsheet on Enhanced Construction Safety Orientation Course

Background

Singapore's construction sector, comprising more than 11,500 companies, employed over 402,700 workers, at the end of December 2011. The sector accounted for 36% of overall workplace fatalities in 2011 and is an area where much effort has been made to improve safety practices. To further raise standards, enhancements will be made to workers' training in construction safety.

Current CSOC requirements

2 Currently, all workers (local and foreign) in the construction industry are required to attend and pass the Construction Safety Orientation Course (CSOC) to ensure that they attain basic knowledge on working safely. Some 144,000 workers take the one-day CSOC and test yearly.

3 Since 1 July 2007, the attendance and passing of CSOC are made criteria in the issuance of work permits for both new and existing foreign workers. New workers are required to attend the CSOC within 14 days of arrival before their work permits can be issued, and must pass the CSOC test within three months of arrival as well. For existing workers with less than six years of working experience, employers are required to have their workers re-certified in the CSOC every two years. For those with more than six years experience, they have to be re-certified every four years.

Need for enhancement on training of construction workers

4 As outlined in the Construction sectoral plan launched in 2010¹, the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council will collaborate with the Building and Construction Authority to explore enhancing the safety awareness of foreign workers by incorporating WSH components into the Skills Evaluation Certification (Knowledge) (SEC(K)) test and conducting the CSOC at the source countries. In addition, in the Construction WSH Study that was conducted by the WSH Council in 2011 also focused on the training provided to workers. In particular, SME professionals, supervisors and workers themselves highlighted the need to ensure that workers are trained as early as possible, and for the current CSOC to be enhanced to include more areas of training as well as a practical component.

¹ The Construction sectoral plan is a comprehensive sector specific plan which identifies key levers and initiatives and aims to guide our collective efforts in achieving significant and sustained improvement in the workplace safety and health performance of the construction sector.

[https://www.wshc.sg/wps/themes/html/upload/cms/file/WSH%20Construction%20Sectoral%20final_lowres\(1\).pdf](https://www.wshc.sg/wps/themes/html/upload/cms/file/WSH%20Construction%20Sectoral%20final_lowres(1).pdf)

Enhanced CSOC and its benefits

5 The enhancements to the CSOC will include:

- A two-day course instead of one-day format currently offered
- A new practical training and assessment component that will focus on working at heights
- Training to be conducted in both overseas and local training centres so that new foreign workers can be trained as early as possible in their home countries before arriving in Singapore

6 Details on the enhancements are in **Annex B(i)**. The enhanced CSOC will ensure that workers receive more in-depth and detailed training to better prepare workers to perform their jobs safely. The new practical component will also help familiarise workers with working at heights in a construction worksite and ensure that they know how to conduct such work safely.

7 Employers will also benefit from the enhancements. With the training in their home countries, workers will be able to be trained as early as possible, hence, allowing them to commence work much earlier after arriving in Singapore. Employers can also better select workers with a basic understanding of construction safety and the ability to cope with construction work.

Annex B(i)

Enhancements to the Current CSOC

Item	CSOC	ENHANCED CSOC
<u>Course Structure</u>		
1. Total Course Duration	8.5 hours	17 hours
2. Course Duration on training	7.5 hours Theory only	12 hours Theory and Practical
3. Test Duration	MCQ = 1 hour	MCQ = 1 hour Practical = 4 hours
4. Topics Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace Safety & Health • Well Being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace Safety & Health • Well Being • Practical components
<u>Conduct of Course & Test</u>		
5. Conduct of Course	By local ATP	By local ATP or OTC
6. Conduct and marking of MCQ Test	By local ATP	By local ATP or BCA Assessors at OTCs
7. Conduct of Practical	None	By local ATP or BCA Assessors at OTCs

BCA – Building and Construction Authority, ATP - Accredited Training Provider, OTC – Overseas Training Centre

Test Format

MCQ Test	Practical Test
30 Questions on WSH	1. Fire and explosion safety
10 Questions on Well Being	2. Material handling safety
	3. Working at height safety
	4. Work safety in confined space
Passing Mark for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCQ - 60% • Practical Test - workers have to demonstrate competency in all the topics tested to be issued with enhanced CSOC 	