

**AMENDMENT OF PERMIT-TO-WORK REQUIREMENTS UNDER WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH (WORK AT HEIGHTS) REGULATIONS**

**Background**

The Workplace Safety and Health (Work at Heights) Regulations were enacted on 1 May 2013, with the key requirements such as Fall Prevention Plan and Permit-to-Work (PTW) system coming into effect later this year on 1 May 2014 to allow the industry more time to comply with the Regulations.

2 The key provisions in the Regulations were:

- Implementation of the Fall Prevention Plan in accordance with any Approved Code of Practice issued by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council;
- Implementation of the PTW to ensure all safety measures are in place before work can commence;
- Training requirements for workers, supervisors and other work at height (WAH) personnel to ensure effective conduct and oversight of work performed at heights; and
- Put in place safety measures while working on roof, near fragile surfaces and by using the industrial rope access system.

**Amendments to the Regulations**

3 The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has been engaging the industry since the enactment of the Regulations. We received feedback from the small and medium enterprises in lower risk sectors, who expressed concerns about operational constraints when implementing the PTW as required under the regulations. Taking these concerns into consideration, MOM has reviewed and refined the PTW requirements to apply only to workplaces defined as Factories<sup>1</sup> under the WSH Act, instead of all workplaces. In addition, the requirement for the WAH safety assessor and authorised manager to be a separate person will be removed. These changes will take effect on 1 May 2014.

4 With the exception of the PTW requirements, all other general provisions for the WSH (WAH) Regulations will still apply to all workplaces on 1 May 2014.

---

<sup>1</sup> Factories are defined under the WSH Act as any premises within which persons are employed in any of the prescribed processes and as specified in the Fourth Schedule. Such workplaces typically include the traditional industries such as Construction worksites, Shipyards, Manufacturing Factories.