

New WSH Council to set safety and health

Parliament passed the WSH (Amendment) Bill today for the stepping up of the WSH Advisory Committee to a new WSH Council with executive powers. In his second reading speech, Minister of State Gan Kim Yong announced a new and significant function by the Council to set industry standards via codes of practice.

To effect this, the amendment transfers the power to issue, approve, amend, or revoke WSH codes of practice from the Commissioner of WSH to the new Council.

The Council will also take on executive functions in the areas of industry capability building and WSH promotion. The Council will administer and review the effectiveness of existing programmes and develop new programmes to improve WSH performance. In addition, the Council will be establishing new research capabilities to look into WSH trends and developments, so that it can formulate appropriate industry responses.

Source: OSH Alert, 6th March 2008, 0708105

Workplace Safety and Health Awards 2008

The Workplace Safety and Health Performance Awards (WSHPA) and Safety and Health Award Recognition for Projects (SHARP) are now open for application. The WSHPA and SHARP are given to recognise workplaces which have performed well in safety and health through the implementation of sound safety and health management systems. These awards are also extended to all workplaces including those not registered as factories. SHARP is awarded specifically to projects or worksites. Apply now so that your organisation can clinch a place at the prestigious Workplace Safety and Health Awards Presentation Ceremony this year! The other awards that are opened for application are:

Workplace Safety and Health Best Practices Awards

The Workplace Safety & Health Best Practices Awards (WSHBPA) are given to recognise companies that make exemplary efforts to control workplace safety and health hazards. The WSHBPA 2008 is now open for application. The closing date is **18 April 2008**.

Workplace Safety and Health Innovation Awards

The Workplace Safety and Health Innovation Awards encourage employees to be involved in improving their own workplace safety and health through team efforts. The closing date is **23 June 2008**.

Source: OSH Alert, 3rd March 2008, 0708104

Workplace Safety and Health Act to Cover Six New Sectors from 1 March 2008

With effect from 1 March 2008, six new sectors will be covered under the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Act. The WSH Act is targeted at cultivating good safety habits and practices in all persons at a workplace - from top management to workers. It requires every individual at workplace to take reasonable practical steps to ensure the safety and health of every person at work at the workplace. The extension will contribute to the long-term plans to raise WSH standards across all industries in Singapore.

The six new sectors are as follow:

- Healthcare Activities;
- Veterinary Activities;
- Hotels, Food and Beverage Sectors;
- Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management Activities;
- Landscape Care and Maintenance Service Activities; and
- Services allied to Transportation of Goods.

Source: OSH Alert, 18th February 2008, 0708098