

Workplace Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill

Table of Contents

Bill No: 2/2008

Read the first time: 15th February 2008

Long Title

Enacting Formula

1 Short title and commencement

2 Amendment of section 4

3 Amendment of section 8

4 Repeal and re-enactment of Part VIII

5 Amendment of section 41

6 Amendment of section 48

7 Amendment of section 65

8 Transitional provision

Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Workplace Safety and Health (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 2/2008

Read the first time on 15th February 2008.

An Act to amend the Workplace Safety and Health Act (Chapter 354A of the 2007 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Workplace Safety and Health (Amendment) Act 2008 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 4

2. Section 4(1) of the Workplace Safety and Health Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “section 39” in the definition of “approved code of practice” and substituting the words “section 40B”; and
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “contractor”, the following definition:

“ “Council” means the Workplace Safety and Health Council established under section 39;”.

Amendment of section 8

3. Section 8 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the words “under section 7”, the words “and every member of the Council”; and
- (b) by deleting the words “and authorised officers” in the section heading and substituting the words “, authorised officers, etc.,”.

Repeal and re-enactment of Part VIII

4. Part VIII of the principal Act is repealed and the following Part substituted therefor:

“PART VIII

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL

Establishment of Workplace Safety and Health Council

39.—(1) There shall be a Workplace Safety and Health Council consisting of the following members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Minister in accordance with this section:

- (a) a chairman;
- (b) a deputy chairman; and
- (c) at least 10 but not more than 18 other members.

(2) The chairman, the deputy chairman and every member of the Council shall be appointed for a term not exceeding 3 years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(3) The Minister may, at any time, revoke the appointment of the chairman, the deputy chairman or any member of the Council.

(4) If any member of the Council dies, resigns or is removed from office, the Minister may appoint any person to fill the vacancy and the person so appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the term for which the vacating member was appointed.

(5) The powers of the Council shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership thereof.

Powers and proceedings of Council

40.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council may determine its own procedure.

(2) At any meeting of the Council, 5 members thereof shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The chairman of the Council or, in his absence, the deputy chairman thereof shall preside at all meetings of the Council and, in their absence, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside.

(4) The deputy chairman of the Council may, subject to such directions as may be given by the chairman thereof, exercise all or any of the powers exercisable by the chairman of the Council under this Act.

(5) The Council may appoint, from among its own members or other persons

who are not members of the Council, such number of committees as it may think fit consisting of its members or other persons, or both its members and other persons, for purposes which, in the opinion of the Council, would be better regulated and managed by means of such committees.

Functions of Council

40A. The functions of the Council shall be —

- (a) to develop or facilitate the development of acceptable practices relating to safety, health and welfare at work;
- (b) to promote the adoption of acceptable practices relating to safety, health and welfare at work;
- (c) to devise, organise and implement programmes and other activities for or related to providing support, assistance or advice to any person or organisation in preserving, improving and promoting safety, health and welfare at work;
- (d) to facilitate and promote the development and upgrading of competencies, skills and expertise of the workforce relating to safety, health and welfare at work;
- (e) to research into any matter relating to safety, health and welfare at work;
- (f) to grant prizes and scholarships, and to establish and subsidise lectureships in universities and other educational institutions in subjects relating to safety, health and welfare at work;
- (g) to provide practical guidance with respect to the requirements of this Act relating to safety, health and welfare at work; and
- (h) to do all the things that it is authorised or required to do under this Act.

Codes of practice

40B.—(1) For the purpose of providing practical guidance with respect to the requirements of this Act relating to safety, health and welfare at work, the Council may, from time to time, do all or any of the following:

- (a) issue one or more codes of practice, which may include any code of practice issued or approved under another written law if the Council