

## FAQs on Approved Codes of Practice

### What is a Code of Practice issued by the WSH Council?

Codes of Practice (CPs) issued by WSH Council set the preferred WSH standards or practices that employers/ principals/ occupiers/ persons at work are expected to adopt when managing workplace risks.

There are 3 CPs issued by WSH Council as at mid-2021:

- CP on WSH Risk Management
- CP for Working Safely at Heights
- CP on Safe Lifting Operations in the Workplaces

CPs are issued after extensive industry and public consultation prior to finalisation and issuance as national WSH reference documents for industry.

CPs issued by the WSH Council are available for free and may be downloaded at:

<https://www.tal.sg/wshc/resources?childType=Codes%20of%20Practice>.

In general, CPs provide guidance on what constitutes reasonably practicable WSH measures and the parties responsible for these measures.

In line with the outcome-based approach of the national WSH framework, WSH Council-issued CPs, however, may not detail the exact steps or specific methods for implementing these measures.

Industry practitioners may decide how best to meet the WSH standards or practices stated in each CP.

### What is an Approved Code of Practice?

Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) comprise gazetted WSH Council-issued CPs and Singapore Standards deemed relevant to WSH.

The WSH (Approved Codes of Practice) Notification is issued annually in accordance to section 40B of the WSH Act (Cap. 354A).

The WSH (Approved Codes of Practice) Notification is available at:

<https://www.tal.sg/wshc/resources?childType=Codes%20of%20Practice>

ACOPs set the preferred work standards or practices that industry practitioners are expected to adopt when managing workplace risks, unless an alternative course of action can achieve the same or better WSH outcome.

### Is it mandatory for industry to comply with ACOPs?

ACOPs are not legislation. However, as they are issued after extensive industry consultation, the WSH standards and practices for a specific type of work stipulated in the ACOP is considered the expected standard that employers/ principals/ occupiers/ persons at work in Singapore should adopt. ACOPs may therefore be cited as a reference in a court of law to determine whether a WSH measure is considered reasonably practicable.

ACOPs could be used as reference in legal prosecutions to demonstrate whether the accused parties involved in a workplace accident had implemented reasonably practicable measures to manage the WSH risks that resulted in the accident.

ACOPs may also be cited in cases where parties are taken to task by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) for infringements found during WSH inspections

### **What is the difference between a WSH Guidelines and a Technical Advisory (TA)?**

Both offer insight to recommended WSH practices by providing guidance to employers/ principals/ occupiers/ persons at work on how to implement suitable WSH measures that may help to meet the requirements of WSH Act and its subsidiary legislation.

The WSH Council will no longer be issuing TAs. Existing TAs will gradually be replaced by WSH Guidelines.

WSH Guidelines may be downloaded at:

<https://www.tal.sg/wshc/resources?childType=WSH%20Guidelines>

Existing TAs are available at:

<https://www.tal.sg/wshc/resources?childType=Technical%20Advisories>

### **Are WSH Guidelines/ TAs ACOPs? Is it mandatory for industry to comply with WSH Guidelines /TAs?**

Guidelines and TAs are not ACOPs. Guidelines and TAs are also not legislation. However, both are issued after extensive industry and public consultation and provide guidance on possible WSH risk controls and common industry practices that may be deemed reasonably practicable.