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MOM Investigations into Forged & Fraudulent WSH Training Certifications



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A Great Workforce A Great Workplace

Scope of Presentation

Recap>

Recent Prosecution Cases >>

What you can/must/continue to do >>>



Recap

*Increased number of **forged WSH training certificates** uncovered since 2015,*

Singapore

Training centre principal who ran certificate mill for workplace safety course gets jail



SINGAPORE: The principal of a training centre was sentenced to 10 months' jail on Nov 1 for falsely issuing course certificates, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) said on Thursday (Nov 8).

Aduljafar Abdulkuthose, principal of Vsafe Training Consultant, was sentenced to 10 months' jail for having issued 17 Building Construction Supervisor Safety (BCSS) course certificates and safety passes to workers without conducting any lessons or assessments.



Workplace Safety and Health trainer sentenced to 10 months' jail under the WSH Act

24 January 2018 | Workplace safety and health

1. Mr. Ramanathan Thamilselvan, a trainer with Work Safe Consultants Pte Ltd, was sentenced to 10 months' jail for fraudulent offences under the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSHA) on 18 January 2018 by the State Court.
2. Mr. Ramanathan Thamilselvan was charged for forging the Building Construction Supervisor Safety (BCSS) course certificates/ safety passes for workers without conducting any training and assessment. These certificates/ safety passes were then sold to the workers. The fraudulent practices took place between January and March 2016.
3. Offenders found guilty under Section 53 of the WSHA shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both, per charge.
4. Two Directors from two other WSH Training Providers had earlier been sentenced each to 10-month imprisonment under the WSHA in August 2017 and September 2017 respectively for forging certificates/ safety passes. Mr. Sellachamy Somasundaram, Director of Maha Safety Training Centre Pte Ltd, and Mr. Md Abu Zahin Mostafizur, Director of Pioneer Skill Training Centre Pte Ltd had similarly forged the Building Construction Supervisor Safety course certificates/ safety passes to workers without conducting any training and assessment for them. The fraudulent practices took place between August and December 2015.
5. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) had since cancelled all fraudulent BCSS certificates issued by the three training providers and revoked their status as accredited training providers. Foreign workers who bought the fraudulent BCSS certificates were barred from performing.

10 months' jail for company director who forged safety training certificates to sell to foreign workers



Md Abu Zahin Mostafizur Rahman, 36, a director of Pioneer Skill Training Centre, admitted to five counts of forging the Building Construction Supervisors Safety Course (BCSS) certificates of successful completion for the foreigners in October and November 2015. PHOTO: ST GRAPHICS



Work safety trainer jailed for forging certificates and safety passes

Singapore

Construction workers from Bangladesh and India attend a briefing before starting work at a construction site in Singapore March 24, 2016. (File photo: REUTERS/Edgar Sul)

24 Jan 2018 02:01PM • Updated: 24 Jan 2018 02:01PM

300m/2m



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Enforcement Levers

Forgery of certificates, false entries and false declarations

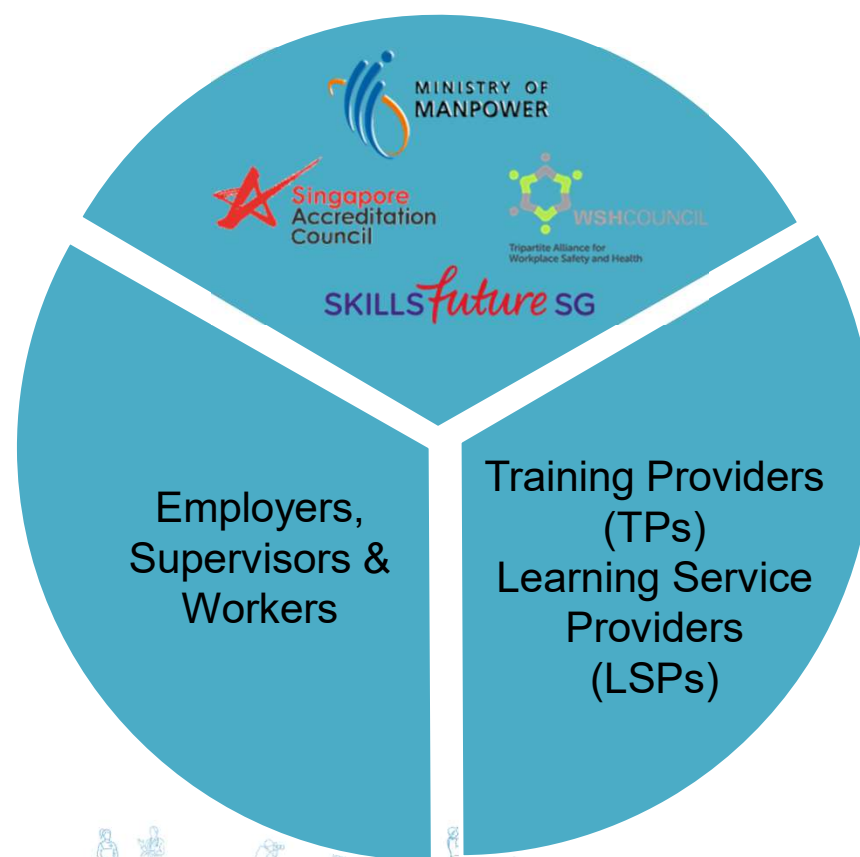
S53 of WSH Act, If any person -

- (a) forges or counterfeits any certificates;*
- (b) gives or signs any certificate knowing it to be false in any material particular;*
- (c) knowingly utters or make use of any certificate that is forged, counterfeit or false;*
- (g) willfully connives at any of the matters;*
- (h) willfully makes a false entry in any records, certificate, notice of document;*
- (j) knowingly makes use of any false entry and declaration*

If found guilty, liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both



WSH Training Ecosystem



Visit to TPs and LSPs

As part of investigations, MOM officers will visit TPs and LSPs to check on the following



Uploading
Training
Records via
TRS

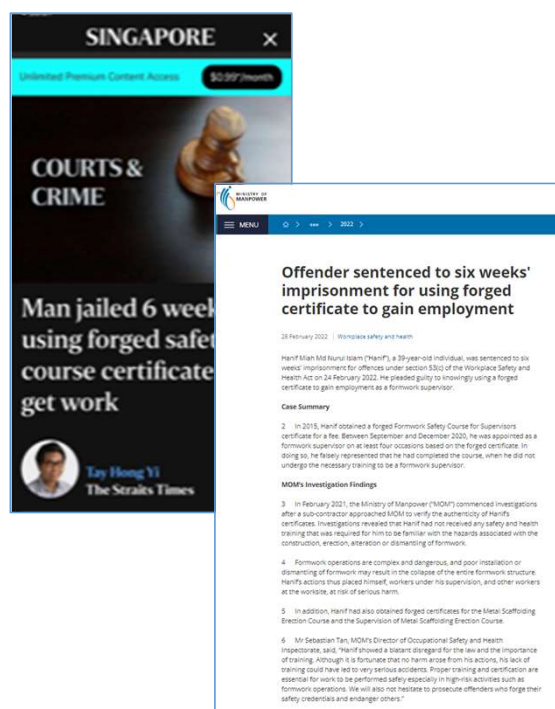
Security of
WSH
Certificates

Upkeeping of
Assessment
Sets

Conduct of
Assessment



Recent Prosecution Cases (1)



Case Brief

Worker had obtained a Formwork Safety Course for Supervisor **for a fee** in 2015.

Between Sept and Dec 2020, he was appointed a formwork supervisor on at **least 4 occasions** based on the forged certificate.

He had also obtained forged certificates for a **metal scaffolding erection course** and a **supervision of metal scaffolding erection course**.

Investigation started after a sub-contractor approached MOM to verify the authenticity of his certificates.

Sentenced in Feb 2022 to 6 weeks imprisonment after pleading guilty to knowingly using the forged certificate to get employed as a formwork supervisor.



Recent Prosecution Cases (2)

Case Brief

Accident occurred in Jan 2018

Worker drove a forklift, hit and pinned a victim to the side of a lorry.

Victim suffered multiple injuries, including fractures to his ribs and pelvis.

*Investigation revealed that worker **had not attended any training** to operate a forklift. He had instead obtained a forged certificate.*



*Sentenced in Jul 2021 to **45 weeks imprisonment** after pleading guilty to 1 count each of recklessly doing an act which endangered the safety of others, and of using a forged certificate.*



What you as training providers can do

- ❑ Carry out stringent checks, including performing **pre-requisites checks** before enrolment, especially for **supervisory, refresher, recertification and assessment only pathway courses**.
- ❑ Look out for **tell-tales signs** of workers' competency level before and during course.
- ❑ Instill **awareness** among workers about forged and fraudulent WSH certifications.
- ❑ Be **extra vigilant** if suspicious personnel approach you to partake in fraudulent activities.
- ❑ **Report** to MOM immediately!



All WSH training records to be uploaded to TRS system

3. As a WSH Training Provider, your business is affected when your company's name is being misused, hence it is in your interest to upload all training records for the WSH training courses listed in the Annex by the following deadlines. MOM will conduct checks on all WSH Training Providers to ensure all training records are uploaded within the stipulated timeline.

Period of course	Deadlines to upload
For courses completed from 1 May 2021 onwards.	Up 5 working days for all courses following the completion of course
For courses completed between 1 January 2017 and 30 April 2021	By 31 August 2021

What you must continue to do

- ❑ To combat forged WSH certifications, **all WSH training** results must be uploaded into MOM's TRS
- ❑ It is in your best interest to do so, as TRS serves as a checking system and deters syndicates from using your name to forge WSH training certifications
- ❑ To conduct courses in accordance to the stipulated requirements, failing which you may be **suspended / revoked** from conducting accredited WSH training



Before We Go

Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

— C. S. Lewis

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Thank you



Find Out More -



WSH Council's Website



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WSH Act and Regulations