

## Public Consultation for WSH Guidelines for Working Safely During Installation, Maintenance and Replacement of Escalators and Moving Walks

Escalators and moving walks are commonplace in building infrastructure, such as malls, offices and government facilities. Specialised personnel are engaged for installation and maintenance to make sure they are functioning properly to prolong the equipment's lifespan and ensure users' safety.

However, the installation and upkeep of escalators and moving walks can be hazardous for personnel if they are not carried out properly. Public safety is also another consideration as such activities are typically carried out in public spaces.

The Workplace Safety and Health Council has drafted a set of guidelines to assist the industry to raise awareness and build up workers' capability for safe installation, maintenance and replacement of escalators and moving walks. We invite industry members to share your valuable feedback with us prior to publication.

The public consultation is open from 16 April to 15 May 2021. Please read the draft WSH Guidelines for Working Safely During Installation, Maintenance and Replacement of Escalators and Moving Walks and send your feedback in this [form](#) to [contact@wshc.sg](mailto:contact@wshc.sg) by **15 May 2021**.

Your views are important and will help to shape the future of workplace safety and health in Singapore.

View the draft WSH Guidelines for Working Safely During Installation, Maintenance and Replacement of Escalators and Moving Walks [here](#).

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## Expansion of Mandatory WIC Insurance Coverage: Employers must insure all non-manual employees earning up to \$2,600/month

The expansion of mandatory Work Injury Compensation (WIC) insurance coverage for non-manual employees (NMEs) was split into 2 phases, to give firms time to adjust. Employers (unless exempted) must buy WIC insurance for all non-manual employees earning \$2,600 or less, with effect from 1 April 2021.

Phased Expansion of Mandatory WIC Coverage	Effective Date
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Phase 1: Increase NME salary threshold from \$1,600/month to \$2,100/month, and require insurance for all NMEs regardless of workplace.	1 April 2020
Phase 2: Increase NME salary threshold from \$2,100/month to \$2,600/month.	1 April 2021

This was announced during the WIC Amendment Bill in September 2019.

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## Sharing of Near-Miss Reporting with the Marine Industries

On 18 February 2021, more than 80 participants attended the “WSH Near-Miss Reporting” webinar jointly organised by the Association of Singapore Marine Industries (ASMI) and the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council. The webinar aimed to encourage the marine industries to set up a dedicated system for near-miss reporting and to have constant communication with workers.

In his opening address, Mr Alex Teo, Chairman of the ASMI WSH Committee, emphasised the importance of WSH ownership and employee’s participation in near-miss reporting. He urged the marine industries to empower their workers to stop unsafe work operation and behaviour.

In addition, Mr Jeyakani Kaliraj, Senior HSE Manager (Investigation & Measurement Branch) from Keppel Offshore & Marine, shared the company’s near-misses reporting system, safety observations practice as well as the review process. Workers who helped to create a safer and healthier workplace through sharing near-misses were rewarded by the company.

From this webinar, the attendees gained useful insights, such as ways to promote and implement near-miss reporting and their benefits.

To further assist the marine industries in the implementation of near-miss reporting, companies can look out for workshops organised by ASMI to train supervisors on how to educate workers on near-miss reporting.

Get more information on near-miss reporting [here](#).

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