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To: Hazardous Substances Licence and Permit Holders

Enhanced Security Measures for Facilities Storing Hazardous Substances

The Pollution Control Department (PCD) of the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will be jointly conducting a review on the security measures for facilities storing hazardous substances (HS) listed under the Second Schedule of the Environmental Protection and Management Act and the Schedule of the Environmental Protection and Management (Hazardous Substances) Regulations.

2 Under the review, facilities had been classified into 3 tiers based on the total storage quantities and chemical properties of the HS stored at specific premises. In addition to existing licensing requirements under the EPMA, licensed HS storage facilities would be subjected to the following requirements based on the 3-tier classification:

Tier 1 Classification

- i. Tier 1 Facilities will be inspected by officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Following these inspections, MHA officers may recommend measures (where applicable and necessary) to ensure the safe and secure storage of the HS. PCD would separately inform companies on the site inspections by MHA officers. This would be scheduled together with PCD's routine inspections of the HS storage premises.
- ii. Tier 1 Facilities are obliged and given time to adopt the recommended measures as advised by the MHA officers. Upon completion of the measures, the facilities shall notify MHA through PCD for follow-up inspection.

Tier 2 Classification

- i. Tier 2 Facilities can expect visits by officer(s) from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) who will give advice on the appropriate

measures to be adopted, depending on the characteristics of the particular premises. Similarly, the recommended measures are to ensure the safe and secure storage of HS. Companies that are classified under Tier 2 will receive prior notification from PCD. Subsequently, SPF would separately inform companies on the site inspections by its officers.

- ii. However, Tier 2 Facilities are not obliged to fully adopt the recommended measures as advised by the SPF officers. Nonetheless, in order to provide a safe and secure working environment in view of the HS stored therein, facilities are strongly encouraged to take up the advice.

Tier 3 Classification

- i. While there are no material changes for Tier 3 licensed HS storage facilities, they are likewise encouraged to review their existing measures in order to provide a safe and secure working environment. Tier 3 Facilities that require assistance on the appropriate measures to be adopted may contact an officer from the SPF through PCD.

3 PCD would contact all HS licence/permit holders progressively for the review on security measures at their HS storage facilities. For further enquiries on the circular, please contact either Ms Tracy Toh at (tracy_toh@nea.gov.sg) or Ms Kee Su Yin at (kee_su_yin@nea.gov.sg). Thank you.

Yours faithfully

TRACY TOH
For DIRECTOR
POLLUTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT

This is a computer-generated letter and no signature is required

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the measures that will be recommended by MHA?

The recommended measures serve to ensure the safe and secure storage of hazardous substances (HS) under the possession of the facility. Some examples of these measures include perimeter fencing, CCTV cameras, card access readers etc. A set of guidelines will be issued to help facilities understand these measures better. The measures highlighted in the guidelines are not exhaustive but serve as a reference for the type of measures that can be adopted.

2. What is the expected cost for adopting the recommended measures?

The cost of adopting the measures varies across each facility as the measures that are recommended differ, depending on the existing state and characteristics of the facility itself. Hence, it is not possible and appropriate to give an estimate of the cost at this point of time.

3. Will there be any funding from PCD or MHA on the cost for adopting the recommended measures?

Unfortunately, there is no funding from the authorities. The measures are meant to provide a safe working environment for the personnel working in the facility. They also help secure the hazardous substances, properties of the facilities, against theft and pilferage.

4. How do we go about adopting the recommended measures?

The facility may source for vendors and/or contractors available in the market, in accordance to the facility's internal procurement processes and guidelines.

5. For Hazardous Substances (HS) storage facilities under Tier 1, how often will MHA conduct the inspection?

Such inspections will be conducted upon the issuance of the HS Licence/Permit for first time applicants. For existing licensees, the inspection will as far as possible, be conducted on the same date that PCD conducts the existing periodic inspections on HS storage facilities. Once the recommended measures (if any) have been implemented by the facilities, there will not be any further inspections from MHA officers.

6. What can we expect from the inspections?

The inspections will be pre-arranged with the facility at an agreed date between the officer(s) and facility. As far as possible, MHA officers will conduct the inspections on the same date that PCD conducts the existing periodic inspections on HS storage facilities. During the inspections, the officer(s) will ask general questions relating to the security of the facility. The officer(s) will also tour the various premises related to the operations involving HS, particularly the room where the HS are used or stored.

7. How do we find out if our company's Hazardous Substances (HS) storage facility falls under Tier 1, 2 or 3 of the classification?

HS storage facilities under Tier 1 will be contacted by PCD prior to the pre-arranged inspection with MHA officers. HS storage facilities under Tier 2 will receive a notification from PCD prior to visits by officer(s) from the Singapore Police Force (SPF). HS storage facilities under Tier 3 will receive a set of recommended security measures from PCD for their reference to review existing security measures in order to provide a safe and secure working environment.