

## Xiangbin ZHANG (NEA)

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**From:** Xiangbin ZHANG (NEA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 12:11 PM  
**Cc:** Zhengping SOH (NEA)  
**Subject:** Clarification to WSHC alert advisory for the safe handling of empty aerosol cans/canisters

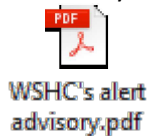
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Dear Sir/Madam,

### CLARIFICATION TO WSHC ALERT ADVISORY FOF THE SAFE HANDLING OF EMPTY AEROSOL CANS/CANISTERS

We refer to the Workplace Safety and Health Council's (WSHC) alert advisory posted on 23 Dec 2020.

2 WSHC had provided an amendment to the alert advisory as of 2 Mar 2021. Please refer to the updated WSHC alert advisory attached below.



3 WSHC had clarified that companies that are able to empty the aerosol cans<sup>a</sup> in a safe manner are allowed to accept aerosol cans/canisters that are unemptied or damaged as well as faulty cans/canisters which are full/partially full. Companies are to ensure that the aerosol cans/canisters are emptied and punctured in a safe manner before recycling them.

*Note (a) - If the aerosol cans contain any of the flammable materials specified by SCDF as a licensable chemical (link: <https://www.scdf.gov.sg/home/fire-safety/petroleum-and-flammable-material-licences/information-of-p-fm-storage-licence>), companies should take guidance from the website and comply with the necessary licensing requirements, unless the quantity of the stipulated chemicals falls within the exemption quantities mentioned in the website.*

4 As mentioned in the amended WSHC alert advisory, the puncturing procedure for aerosol cans/canisters should be carried out in a well-ventilated environment (e.g. outdoor environment, inside a fume cupboard/chamber or under local exhaust ventilation using an earthed and spark-proof puncturing machine or tool) and free of ignition sources. More information on the safe work environment for recovery of punctured waste aerosol cans/canisters can be found in the WSHC alert advisory.

5 Companies are allowed to take up the handling of aerosol cans/canisters as this is an unavoidable and common waste type in all countries. However, companies should be mindful of the risk assessment of the handling of this waste type and are advised to review and adopt industrial best practices to minimize workplace risks, for a safe working environment for everyone in your company.

6 Industrial waste generators are also advised to either i) segregate the aerosol cans/canisters at source before engaging a licensed General Waste Disposal Facility (GWDF), or ii) puncture/drain the cans/canisters onsite and recycle them as scrap metal. The general public are also advised to empty the content of the cans/canisters before disposing it as scrap metal in the blue recycling bins.

7 If you have any questions on our clarification, please contact me or my colleague Zhengping Cc-ed in this email.

Regards



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**From:** Xiangbin ZHANG (NEA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 February 2021 10:57 AM  
**Cc:** Zhengping SOH (NEA) <SOH\_Zhengping@nea.gov.sg>  
**Subject:** Advisory for safe handling of empty aerosol cans/canisters

<This email is sent in Bcc>

Dear Sir/Madam,

**ADVISORY FOR SAFE HANDLING OF EMPTY AEROSOL CANS/CANISTERS**

As you may be aware, there was an unfortunate accident that took place last September, resulting in a fatality to an excavator operator who was transferring scrap metal into a compactor.

2 The Workplace Safety and Health Council (WSHC) has recently published an accident advisory on their website (link [HERE](#) and appended below) in relation to the above-mentioned accident and NEA would like to share the accident advisory with our GWDF licensees.

<< File: WSH Alert Advisory.pdf >>

3 In particular, disposed aerosol cans/canisters, which are mainly made up of recyclable steel or aluminum, may contain product remnants and propellants that are flammable. As such waste aerosol cans/canisters may pose risks to workers if not handled properly, companies who may handle waste aerosol cans/canisters are advised to follow the pointers listed in the WHSC advisory.

4 Besides these pointers, companies are also advised to review and adopt industrial best practices to minimise workplace risks, for a safe working environment for everyone in your company.

5 For any clarifications on this matter, please contact me or my colleague Mr Soh Zhengping via email.

Regards

**ZHANG XiangBin** Champagne • Executive Engineer (Waste Regulation) • Waste Management Division, Resource & Sustainability Group  
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