

Dear Sir/Mdm,

**Feedback on Unsafe Commercial Diving Activities**

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) had received feedback on diving contractors carrying out commercial diving jobs using recreational scuba diving gears (“scuba gears”) at Singapore’s anchorages. MOM’s investigation uncovered that these diving contractors had used scuba gears, even when surface-supplied diving equipment were available onboard their dive boats. Some dive personnel were also found without acceptable commercial diving certifications.

2. These are serious breaches of the Workplace Safety and Health Act (WSHA) and the Singapore Standard SS511 – Code of practice for diving at work. Such unsafe practices had unfortunately resulted in 2 fatalities involving diving activities at Singapore’s anchorages this year. Commercial diving presents a unique set of occupational safety and health challenges due to the demanding and hazardous nature of the underwater environment. Hence, the use of inappropriate equipment such as scuba gears and inadequate training can swiftly escalate into accidents with severe consequences, including fatalities.

3. MOM will be ramping up our inspections on diving activities and stern enforcement actions will be taken against diving contractors and individuals found operating without the required safety measures or in an unsafe manner. MOM will also impose Stop Work Order (SWO) to any diving contractor and individual (including diving supervisor and diver) found committing any of the following offences:

(a) Using scuba gears to carry out commercial diving activities, regardless of whether the said activities are performed for the clients’ vessels or the diving contractors’ own boats; or

(b) Any dive personnel found without the relevant acceptable commercial diving certifications, or with fake/forged commercial diving certifications. Please refer to Commercial Diving Association (Singapore)’s webpage at <https://www.cdas.sg/for-divers> for the acceptable commercial diving certifications.

4. For companies issued with SWO, the Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) will also stop the issuance of diving permits to the contractor.

5. We strongly urge you to take steps to ensure compliance to SS511 to prevent occurrences of unsafe diving activities.

6. You may send your enquiries to **[mom\\_oshd@mom.gov.sg](mailto:mom_oshd@mom.gov.sg)** if you need any clarification.

Thank you.

**Chua Bock Choon (Mr)**

**Assistant Director, Ops (Marine)**

Occupational Safety & Health Inspectorate

Occupational Safety & Health Division . Ministry of Manpower .