



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION REGIME TO BE EXTENDED PROGRESSIVELY TO MORE PREMISES WITH HIGH FOOTFALL OR VULNERABLE OCCUPANTS FROM 1 APRIL 2022

Approximately 2,700 premises to be included under the environmental sanitation regime, in addition to the existing 3,700 premises

Singapore, 7 March 2022 – With effect from 1 April 2022, the environmental sanitation regime will be extended progressively to approximately 2,700 premises covering more eldercare, social service and school facilities, as well as food courts, canteens, and shopping malls with significant retail space. These premises were identified due to the presence of vulnerable occupants, their high footfall, and public accessibility. The National Environment Agency (NEA) has worked closely with the sectoral leads, which includes partner agencies, to finalise the sector-specific environmental sanitation standards before implementation (*refer to Annex I for implementation timeline for all specified premises*).

2 NEA and the sectoral leads have conducted industry consultations and are currently informing affected premises of the need to adhere to mandatory sector-specific environmental sanitation standards, and to send appointed staff for the required Environmental Control Coordinator (ECC) or Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for Specified Premises (SP) training prior to implementation¹. The regime requires premises managers to put in place an environmental sanitation programme and to be responsible for the cleanliness of their premises. Premises managers are to appoint registered ECCs or ECO(SP)s, who will assist in developing, reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the programme (*refer to Annex II for information on baseline requirements of an environmental sanitation programme*).

3 As shopping malls are complex and multi-tenanted, ECO(SP)s will need to be appointed as they have to supervise and coordinate the implementation of the mall's environmental sanitation programme with other stakeholders within the malls, such as the ECCs of smaller specified premises (e.g. food court, preschool).² ECO(SP)s will also be trained in more diverse environmental issues to ensure that the premises managers comply with other environmental laws³. ECCs will continue to be appointed for specified premises such as preschools, food establishments, eldercare facilities, and more (*refer to Annex III for examples of staff who could take up the role as ECCs and ECO(SP)s*).

¹ ECO(SP)s are appointed in complex and multi-tenanted shopping malls, whereas ECCs would be appointed for individual specified premises. The ECO(SP) training is different from the ECO course for construction sites.

² A pilot of the ECO scheme for malls was carried out from September 2019 to October 2020 to identify the range of environmental challenges faced by the malls and to explore how a trained ECO may help to bridge existing knowledge gaps and assist the mall operators in complying with environmental laws.

³ Other environmental laws include adhering to requirements not under the environmental sanitation regime, such as areas in vector control, waste management, and any other environmental health matters.

4 Mr Timothy Chan, Chief Operating Officer, Koufu Pte Ltd, said: “The environmental sanitation regime, which builds on our existing hygiene and sanitation measures, will be practised in Koufu foodcourts, coffee shops and canteens. The regime will help Singapore improve hygiene and sanitation standards in public dining spaces as a whole. The area managers who are appointed as ECCs, play an important role in helping cleaners in their day-to-day operations and implementing a wide range of environmental measures including putting in place standard operating procedures on cleaning and disinfection, pest management, waste management, etc. The ECC training has helped to equip them with the relevant skills and knowledge to effectively monitor the implementation of the regime.”

5 Mr Jason Loy, Head, Operations, Retail Singapore, CapitaLand, said: “CapitaLand welcomes the implementation of the environmental sanitation regime to large shopping malls, which will contribute towards improving their cleanliness and hygiene standards and enhancing the shopping experience for consumers. Having taken part in the ECO Scheme Pilot for shopping malls in 2020, we appreciate the importance of appointing an ECO(SP) who is well trained in a diverse range of environmental topics to support shopping malls in adhering to the new environmental sanitation regime. This will provide better monitoring and reviewing of the various cleanliness, hygiene and pest control measures within the premises, and compliance with the sector-specific standards.”

Towards a National Culture of Keeping Singapore Clean

6 The experience of COVID-19 reinforces the need for us to put in place good systems to ensure that we remain resilient to public health threats. With a structured environmental sanitation programme in place, premises that have implemented the regime have been able to focus on high-touch areas requiring more attention to keep their premises clean and hygienic. A cleaner environment could lead to increased business, due to greater consumer confidence, as consumers become increasingly aware of the importance of cleanliness and hygiene amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

7 To cope with the anticipated increase in demand for cleaning and disinfection services, NEA is working with the cleaning industry to attract more locals to join the environmental services industry through various upskilling initiatives and programmes, and encouraging greater adoption of technology by licensed cleaning businesses. We will continue to partner key stakeholders and premises owners and operators to collectively uplift and maintain higher standards of cleanliness and hygiene, and to better protect the health of our population.

- End -

Implementation Timeline

Timeline	Types of Premises	Estimated Targeted No. of Premises	Sectoral Lead
New Premises			
1 April 2022	Other schools (e.g. independent/ specialised/ specialised independent schools, special education schools, privately funded schools)	About 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education Ministry of Culture, Communication and Youth
1 April 2022	Government-funded Early Intervention Centres	About 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Development Agency
1 April 2022	MSF Youth Homes	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social and Family Development
1 April 2022	Other eldercare and psychiatric facilities (e.g. senior activity centres, active ageing centres, psychiatric residential homes and day centres)	About 160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health
1 May 2022	Food Courts	About 220	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Food Agency
1 May 2022	Canteens (e.g. school canteens, canteens in factories, canteens in student hostels and foreign workers' recreation centres)	About 1,440	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Food Agency Singapore Land Authority
1 July 2022	Other social service facilities (e.g. day activity centres, sheltered workshops)	About 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social and Family Development
1 August 2022	Shopping Malls	About 170	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enterprise Singapore Housing and Development Board
1 October 2022	Other schools (Madrasahs, Pre-tertiary Private Education Institutions)	About 110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura SkillsFuture Singapore
1 October 2022	Student Care Centres	About 550	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social and Family Development Ministry of Education

Existing Premises			
30 July 2021	Eldercare facilities (e.g. senior care centres, active ageing care hubs and hospice day care)	About 170	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health
30 July 2021	Eldercare, Youth and Social Service facilities (e.g. children and young persons homes, welfare homes, sheltered homes and adult disability homes)	About 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Social and Family Development
1 November 2021	Preschools (i.e. kindergartens and childcare centres)	About 1,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Development Agency
1 December 2021	Food centres and Markets (including privately owned markets)	About 140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Development Board Ministry of National Development National Environment Agency Singapore Food Agency Singapore Land Authority <p><i>[Multiple agencies listed to cover the various types of food centres and/or markets]</i></p>
1 February 2022	Schools	About 340	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Education
1 March 2022	Coffeeshops	About 1,100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing and Development Board Singapore Food Agency Singapore Land Authority

For more information on the implementation in 2021, please visit this link:

<https://www.nea.gov.sg/media/news/news/index/environmental-sanitation-regime-to-take-effect-progressively-from-30-jul-2021>

Environmental Sanitation Programme Baseline Requirements

1 Premises managers will be required to implement an environmental sanitation programme and be responsible for the cleanliness of their premises. They will be required to appoint registered ECCs or ECO(SP)s, who will assist them to develop and monitor the implementation of the environmental sanitation programme. Some of the baseline requirements in the programme include:

- Minimum daily cleaning and disinfection frequencies for toilets, lifts, bin centres and high-touch surfaces.
- Minimum six-monthly thorough periodic cleaning, which includes cleaning of areas that are not easily accessible and not covered by routine cleaning (e.g. out-of-reach window panels, ceiling and wall fans). Intense cleaning of areas that are already covered under routine cleaning may also be required during thorough periodic cleaning. The frequency of the thorough periodic cleaning may be increased depending on the type of premises.
- Pest management plan to ensure that measures are in place to prevent pest issues.
- Cleaning and disinfection methodology/protocol to respond to incident(s) involving bodily discharge (e.g. vomitus).
- Provision of necessary equipment and cleaning agents to carry out effective cleaning and disinfection.

2 On top of the baseline requirements, premises managers and ECCs/ECO(SP)s will need to customise sector-specific standards for their respective environmental sanitation programmes. A sample of what an environmental sanitation programme would look like is available in the Technical Guide on the NEA's website: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/environmental-sanitation-for-high-risk-non-healthcare-premises-in-singapore-technical-guide4f7a9b432414360a57effac2564fa63.pdf>.

Examples of Appointment of Premises Managers, Environmental Control Coordinators and Environmental Control Officers (Specified Premises)

Types of Premises	Premises Manager *	Environmental Control Coordinators / Environmental Control Officers (Specified Premises) *
Eldercare, Youth and Social Service facilities	Centre Director, Social Service Agency or Licensee	Centre Manager or Operations Manager
Preschools	Licensee	Appointed Centre Staff
Food Centres and Markets	Owners / Operators of Food Centres and/ or Markets/ Private Market Licensees	Place Managers, Operations Managers, Property Officers
Schools	Appointed School Staff	Appointed Staff
Coffeeshops	Licensee/ Business Owner	Outlet Operations Supervisor, Operations Manager
Food Courts	Licensee/ Business Owner	Outlet Operations Supervisor, Operations Manager, Food Hygiene Officer
Canteens	Licensee/ Business Owner	Outlet Operations Supervisor, Operations Manager, Food Hygiene Officer
Shopping Malls	General Manager, Management Corporation Strata Title (MCST)	Operations Manager, Operations Executive

**Subject to changes.*