

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1987

2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021

An Act to consolidate the law relating to environmental public health and to provide for matters connected therewith.

[1 July 1987]

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act is the Environmental Public Health Act 1987.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“aerosol-generating system” means any device or system that is capable of producing a suspension of fine liquid droplets in air or other type of gas;

“Agency” means the National Environment Agency established under the National Environment Agency Act 2002;

“aquatic facility” means any pool, device or facility used or intended to be used for any recreational or therapeutic activity in, on or involving the use of water;

“aquatic facility licence” means a licence granted under this Act for a licensable aquatic facility;

“authorised officer” means any person appointed by the Director-General under sections 3(2) and 4(2) to be an authorised officer;

“auxiliary officer” means an individual who is appointed as an auxiliary officer under section 16A(1) of the National Environment Agency Act 2002;

“baseline wage”, in relation to a waste management worker —

- (a) means the total amount of money (including wage adjustments and increments) to which the waste management worker is entitled under

his or her contract of service —

- (i) for working for a period of time, that is, for one hour, one day, one week, one month or for any other period that may be stated or implied in his or her contract of service; or
 - (ii) for each completed piece or task of work;
- (b) includes any payment that is prescribed as being part of the baseline wage; and
- (c) excludes all of the following:
- (i) additional payments by way of overtime payments;
 - (ii) additional payments by way of bonus payments or annual wage supplements;
 - (iii) any sum paid to the waste management worker to reimburse him or her for special expenses incurred by him or her in the course of his or her employment;
 - (iv) any payment that may be prescribed as not being part of the baseline wage;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“basic rate of pay” means the total amount of money (including wage adjustments and increments) to which an employee is entitled under his or her contract of service for working for a period of time, that is, for one hour, one day, one week, one month or for any other period that may be stated or implied in his or her contract of service, or for each completed piece or task of work, but does not include —

- (a) additional payments by way of overtime payments;
- (b) additional payments by way of bonus payments or annual wage supplements;
- (c) any sum paid to the employee to reimburse him or her for special expenses incurred by him or her in the course of his or her employment;
- (d) productivity incentive payments; and
- (e) any allowance however described;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“basic wage”, in relation to a cleaner, means wage calculated at the cleaner’s basic rate of pay —

- (a) for one hour, one day, one week, one month or for any other period that may be stated or implied in his or her contract of service; or
- (b) for each completed piece or task of work;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“building” includes any house, hut, shed or roofed enclosure, whether used for the purpose of human habitation or otherwise, and any structure, support or foundation connected to the foregoing;

“cleaner” means an individual who is engaged, whether as a full-time employee, part-time employee or casual employee and whether or not at piece rates —

- (a) to perform cleaning work for a person other than the individual’s employer; or
- (b) to supervise other individuals performing cleaning work for a person other than the individual’s employer, whether or not the individual is known as a supervisor or leader or by any other title,

and includes any individual who is declared by the Minister, by notification in the *Gazette*, to be a cleaner;

“cleaning business” means a business, whether or not the business is carried on for profit —

- (a) in which a person carries out cleaning work for other persons through the services of cleaners engaged or employed by that person; or
- (b) of supplying cleaners to other persons;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“cleaning business licence” means a licence granted under section 80G(1);

“cleaning contract”, in relation to a person, means a contract for the provision of cleaning work to other persons by cleaners, or for the supply to other persons of cleaners, who are engaged or employed by the person;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“cleaning work” means work carried out in Singapore that has, as its main or only component, the bringing of premises or any public place into, or keeping of premises or any public place in, a clean condition, and includes supervising the carrying out of that work but excludes any work that the Minister declares, by notification in the *Gazette*, not to be cleaning work;

“code of practice” means any code of practice issued or approved under section 99A(1), and includes such code of practice as amended from time to time;

“Commissioner for Labour” means the Commissioner for Labour appointed under section 3(1) of the Employment Act 1968;

“common property” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004;

“construction site” means any premises on which works of the following description are being or are going to be carried out:

- (a) the erection, construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of buildings, structures or roads;
- (b) the breaking up or opening of, or boring under, any road or adjacent land in connection with the construction, inspection, maintenance or removal of works;
- (c) demolition or dredging works;
- (d) any other work of engineering construction;

“dangerous substance” means —

- (a) aquafortis, vitriol, naphtha benzine, gunpowder, lucifer matches, nitroglycerine and petroleum;
- (b) any explosive within the meaning of the Arms and Explosives Act (Cap. 13);
- (c) any radioactive material within the meaning of the Radiation Protection Act 2007;
- (d) any substance which owing to its nature, composition or quantity constitutes a danger to property or human life or health; and
- (e) such other substance which the Agency may, with the approval of the Minister, by notification in the *Gazette*, declare to be a dangerous substance for the purpose of this Act;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of Public Health appointed under section 3(1);

“Director-General, Food Administration” means the Director-General, Food Administration appointed under section 3(1) of the Sale of Food Act 1973;

“disposal facility” includes a recycling facility, a refuse disposal ground, any place used for the deposit of refuse or waste, an incinerator or any plant, machinery or apparatus used for the processing or treatment of refuse or waste;

“dwelling house” includes any building or tenement or any part thereof which is used, constructed or adapted for use for human habitation;

“environmental sanitation programme” means any environmental sanitation programme developed under section 62B, and includes such environmental sanitation programme as amended from time to time;

“flat” means a horizontal stratum of any building or part thereof, whether the stratum is on one or more levels or is partially or wholly below the surface of the ground, which is used or intended to be used as a complete and separate unit for the purpose of habitation or business or for any other purpose, and which may be comprised in a “lot”, or in part of any “subdivided building” not shown in a registered “strata title plan” (the last 3 expressions within quotation marks having the meanings given by the Land Titles (Strata) Act 1967);

“food” includes drink, chewing gum and other products of a like nature and use, and articles and substances used as ingredients in the preparation of food or drink or of such products, but does not include —

- (a) live animals or birds;
- (b) fodder or feeding stuffs for animals, birds or fish; or
- (c) articles or substances used only as drugs;

“food establishment” means any place or any premises or part thereof used for the sale, or for the preparation or manufacture for sale, or for the storage or packing for sale, of food, whether cooked or not, intended for human consumption;

“footway” includes footways and verandah-ways at the sides of streets;

“funeral parlour” means any premises where corpses are received for the purpose of preparation for burial or cremation or for the carrying out of funeral rites or ceremonies prior to burial or cremation, and includes any premises used for such purpose by whatever name called;

“garden refuse” means the refuse from garden and agricultural operations;

“house” includes dwelling house, warehouse, office, shop, school and any other building in which persons are employed;

“industrial waste” means any waste whether solid, liquid or gaseous produced, or removed or recovered, in the course of or is the waste product of any trade,

business, manufacture or building construction, and includes toxic industrial waste and any dangerous substance;

[Act 24 of 2021 wef 01/04/2022]

“infectious diseases” means —

- (a) any disease set out in the First or Second Schedule to the Infectious Diseases Act 1976; and
- (b) any skin disease which is likely to be contagious;

“itinerant hawker” means any person who, with or without a vehicle, goes from place to place or from house to house carrying for sale or exposing for sale any food or goods of any kind;

“latrine” includes bucket latrines, bore-hole latrines, water seal latrines and pit latrines;

“licensable aquatic facility” means any aquatic facility of the description or type prescribed by the Agency, with the approval of the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*;

“limited common property” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004;

“manager”, in relation to any premises, means the occupier of the premises, and where there is no occupier, the owner of the premises;

“market” means any place used for the sale of any meat, fish, fruit, vegetable, poultry, egg or other article of food, whether cooked or uncooked, for human consumption, and includes any premises therein used for the sale of goods or in any way used in conjunction or connection therewith or appurtenant thereto;

“nuisance” means any act, omission or thing occasioning or likely to occasion injury, annoyance, offence, harm, danger or damage to the sense of sight, smell or hearing, or which is or is likely to be injurious or dangerous to health or property;

“occupier” means the person in occupation of any premises or having the charge, management or control thereof either on that person’s own account or as agent of another person; and, in relation to any part of any premises, different parts of which are occupied by different persons, means the person in occupation or having the charge, management or control of that part;

“operator”, in relation to a public service vehicle, means the owner, ticket conductor, driver, ticket inspector or person who is in charge or in control of

the public service vehicle;

“owner”, in relation to —

- (a) any premises — means the person for the time being receiving the rent of the premises, whether on the person’s own account or as agent or trustee or as receiver, or who would receive the rent if the premises were let to a tenant, and includes the person whose name is entered in the Valuation List prepared under section 10 of the Property Tax Act 1960;
- (b) any premises where building works are carried out — includes the developer;
- (c) the common property of any subdivided building — includes the management corporation established under the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004 having control of the building, or the person receiving any rent or charge for the maintenance of that common property; and
- (d) the limited common property of any subdivided building — includes the subsidiary management corporation established under the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004 having control of the limited common property, or the person receiving any rent or charge for the maintenance of that limited common property;

“place of public resort” means a building or a defined or an enclosed place used or constructed or adapted to be used either ordinarily or occasionally as a church, mosque, temple or other place where public worship is or religious ceremonies are performed, not being merely a dwelling house so used, or as a cinema, theatre, public hall, or as a public place of assembly for persons admitted thereto by ticket or otherwise, or used or constructed or adapted to be used either ordinarily or occasionally for any other public purpose;

“premises” means messuages, buildings, lands, easements and hereditaments of any tenure, whether open or enclosed, whether built on or not, whether public or private, and whether maintained or not under statutory authority, and includes any place or structure, or any part thereof used or intended to be used for human habitation or for any other purpose whatsoever;

“private market” means a market other than a public market;

“private street” means any street not being a public street;

“progressive wage model bonus”, for a cleaner or waste management worker —

- (a) means a discretionary amount of money payable to a cleaner or waste management worker (as the case may be) that is in addition to all of the following paid to the cleaner or waste management worker:
 - (i) any basic wage (for a cleaner) or baseline wage (for a waste management worker);
 - (ii) any overtime payment;
 - (iii) any sum to reimburse the cleaner or waste management worker for special expenses incurred during his or her employment;
 - (iv) any allowance however described;
- (b) includes any component that is prescribed as being part of the progressive wage model bonus for a cleaner or waste management worker, as the case may be; and
- (c) excludes any component that is prescribed as not being part of the progressive wage model bonus for a cleaner or waste management worker, as the case may be;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“progressive wage plan” means —

- (a) in relation to an applicant for a cleaning business licence — a plan that relates to the basic wage and progressive wage model bonus that the applicant pays or intends to pay to the cleaners who are the applicant’s employees; or
- (b) in relation to an applicant for a waste collector licence or waste disposal licence — a plan that relates to the baseline wage, overtime payment and progressive wage model bonus that the applicant pays or intends to pay to the waste management workers who are the applicant’s employees;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“public market” means a market owned, leased or maintained by the Government;

“public park” has the meaning given by section 2 of the Parks and Trees Act 2005;

“public place” includes any place whether privately owned or not to which the public has access;

“public service vehicle” has the meaning given by the Road Traffic Act 1961;

- “public street” means any street over which the public has a right of way and any street vested in the Government;
- “public waste collector licensee” means a person designated by the Director-General under section 31(3);
- “publicly accessible premises” means any premises to which the public or a section of the public has access as of right, or by virtue of any express or implied permission with or without payment of a fee and whether or not access to the premises may be restricted at particular times or for particular purposes, and includes any part of those premises, and “publicly accessible” is to be construed accordingly;
- “recyclable” means any refuse, waste or other material or thing that the Agency may prescribe, with the approval of the Minister, to be capable of being recycled or reused;
- “recycling facility” means any premises used for the sorting, segregation, processing or treatment of refuse, waste or any other material or thing for the primary purpose of recycling or reuse;
- “registered aerosol-generating system” means any registrable aerosol-generating system that is registered under this Act;
- “registered Environmental Control Coordinator” means any individual who is registered under this Act as an Environmental Control Coordinator;
- “registered Environmental Control Officer” means any individual who is registered under this Act as an Environmental Control Officer;
- “registrable aerosol-generating system” means any aerosol-generating system of the description or type prescribed by the Agency, with the approval of the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*;
- “residential premises” means any premises which are permitted to be used under the Planning Act 1998 or any other written law as a dwelling house or which is lawfully so used;
- “sale” includes barter, exchange, import and export, and also includes offering or attempting to sell, or causing or allowing to be sold, or exposing for sale, or receiving or sending or delivering for sale, or supplying any food, drink or goods where consideration is to be received by the supplier for such supply either specifically or as part of a service contracted for, or having in possession for sale or having in possession any food, drink or goods knowing that the same is likely to be sold or offered or exposed for sale, and “sell” is to be construed

accordingly;

“sanitary conveniences” includes latrines, toilets, urinals and water closets;

“showboard” includes showcase and any description of container used for the display of any article or thing;

“Singapore Food Agency” means the Singapore Food Agency established by the Singapore Food Agency Act 2019;

[Deleted by Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“specified premises”, in relation to Part 6, has the meaning given by section 62A;

“stable refuse” means the dung or urine of birds, poultry or animals and the sweepings or refuse or drainage from any stables or cattle sheds or places for keeping animals, birds or poultry;

“stall” means any table, shed, showboard, vehicle or receptacle or any other means used or intended to be used for the purpose of selling food or goods of any kind, and includes any structure affixed thereto by way of roof, support or flooring;

“standard of performance” means any standard of performance issued or approved under section 99A(1), and includes such standard of performance as amended from time to time;

“statutory body” means a body corporate established by or under a public Act for a public purpose;

“street” includes any road, flyover, square, footway, backlane or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not, over which the public has a right of way, and also the way over any public bridge, and also includes any road, car park, field, grass verge, footway or passage, open court or open alley used or intended to be used as a means of access to 2 or more holdings, whether the public has a right of way thereover or not; and all channels, drains, ditches and reserves at the side of any street are deemed to be part of the street;

“toilet” means a facility for urinating and defecating which is water flushed, and which connects, directly or otherwise, with a private sewage disposal system or with the public sewage disposal system;

“toxic industrial waste” means any industrial waste which owing to its nature, composition or quantity constitutes a danger to human health or the environment or which contains or may produce pathogens of transmissible diseases;

“vehicle” means any vehicle whether mechanically propelled or otherwise, and includes a barrow and a cart;

“waste” includes —

- (a) any substance which constitutes a scrap material or an effluent or other unwanted surplus substance arising from the application of any process; and
- (b) any substance or article which requires to be disposed of as being broken, worn out, contaminated or otherwise spoiled,

and anything which is discarded or otherwise dealt with as if it were waste is presumed to be waste unless the contrary is proved;

[Deleted by Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

[Deleted by Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waste collection work” —

- (a) means work carried out in Singapore that has, as its main or only component, the collection, removal, transport, storage or import of refuse or waste;
- (b) includes supervising the carrying out of that work; and
- (c) excludes any work that the Minister declares, by notification in the *Gazette*, not to be waste collection work;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waste collection worker” means an individual who is engaged, whether as a full-time employee, part-time employee or casual employee and whether or not at piece rates —

- (a) to perform waste collection work; or
- (b) to supervise other individuals performing waste collection work, whether or not the individual is known as a supervisor or leader or by any other title,

and includes any individual who is declared by the Minister, by notification in the *Gazette*, to be a waste collection worker;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waste collector licence” means a licence granted under section 31(2);

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waste disposal licence” means a licence granted under section 23(2);

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waste disposal work” —

- (a) means work carried out in Singapore that has, as its main or only component, the construction, establishment, maintenance or operation of a disposal facility;
- (b) includes supervising the carrying out of that work; and
- (c) excludes any work that the Minister declares, by notification in the *Gazette*, not to be waste disposal work;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waste disposal worker” means an individual who is engaged, whether as a full-time employee, part-time employee or casual employee and whether or not at piece rates —

- (a) to perform waste disposal work; or
- (b) to supervise other individuals performing waste disposal work, whether or not the individual is known as a supervisor or leader or by any other title,

and includes any individual who is declared by the Minister, by notification in the *Gazette*, to be a waste disposal worker;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waste management worker” means a waste collection worker or waste disposal worker;

[Act 5 of 2023 wef 01/07/2023]

“waterway” means a navigable river, conduit or drain;

“work place” means any premises or place used for any industrial, trade, commercial or manufacturing purposes and includes all construction sites, work sites and farms.

[47/2004; 27/2007; 26/2008; 15/2014; 4/2016; 48/2018; 11/2019; 33/2020; 4/2021]