

Safety & Health Alert No. 30/2020 Announcement from Labour Department – Flexible arrangement for Employees who are unable to complete Mandatory Safety Training Revalidation Courses in time

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Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

This serves to draw your attention to the captioned announcement published by Labour Department (LD).

The COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong has stabilised in the past few weeks. LD notices that training course providers (“TCPs”) have gradually resumed normal operation. Owing to the lead time for TCPs to provide Mandatory Safety Training (“MST”) revalidation courses to the employees affected (i.e. employees holding an MST certificate that expires from December 30, 2019 to June 15, 2020), and that such employees may not be able to enrol on MST revalidation courses (“revalidation courses”) before the expiry of admission period¹, LD introduces the following special arrangements for the afore-mentioned affected employees:-

- i) allowing those who are not able to enrol on revalidation courses to continue to be engaged in the specified work (details at column C of the table below); and
- ii) extending the admission deadlines for various revalidation courses for these employees (details at column D of the table below).

[¹According to the prevailing mechanism, employees are allowed to enrol on the relevant revalidation courses within 3 to 6 months (depending on the types of MST courses) after the expiry of their MST certificates.]

Implementation Period of Special Arrangements and Admission Deadlines for Revalidation Courses

	Revalidation Courses [Column A]	Expiry date of MST certificates [Column B]	Period allowing employees unable to enrol on revalidation courses to continue to be engaged in the specified work [Column C]	Admission deadlines for revalidation courses [Column D]
(i)	Mandatory Basic Safety Training	Dec. 30, 2019 to Jun. 15, 2020	Jul. 15, 2020 (Applicable to container handling) Sep. 15, 2020 (Applicable to construction work)	Sep. 15, 2020 (Applicable to container handling and construction work)
(ii)	Gas Welding Safety Training		Jul. 15, 2020	Sep. 15, 2020
(iii)	Training for Crane Operators		Jul. 15, 2020	Dec. 15, 2020
(iv)	Training for Loadshifting Machinery Operators		Aug. 15, 2020	Sep. 15, 2020
(v)	Training for Persons Working on Suspended Working Platforms		Aug. 15, 2020	Dec. 15, 2020
(vi)	Confined Spaces Safety Training		Sep. 15, 2020 (Applicable to Competent Persons) Nov. 15, 2020 (Applicable to Certified Workers)	

- Employees holding an MST certificate with an expiry date falling within the period specified in column B should enrol on the relevant revalidation course as soon as possible.
- LD would like to emphasise that the above arrangements are an exceptional one in light of the pandemic, and should not be seen as a precedent.

- If employers through the above special arrangements employ the employees who are not able to enrol on the relevant revalidation courses, they shall continue to comply with other provisions made under the occupational safety and health law, so as to ensure these employees working in safe and healthy working environments and to prevent the occurrence of accidents. Such employees should also be arranged to peruse the “Work Safety Alerts” animation videos and related information relevant to employees’ work:
 - (i) “Work Safety Alert” (Animation)
https://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/news/work_safety_alert_video.htm
 - (ii) Tutorial Material for Mandatory Basic Safety Training Course (Construction Work)
https://www.labour.gov.hk/eng/osh/pdf/Tut_MBST_CW_Eng.pdf
- Employees are also reminded to strictly follow the method statements of employers and implement the relevant working procedures while at work to safeguard the occupational safety and health of themselves as well as other employees.
- The above arrangements are not applicable to the employees holding a certificate that expires on or after June 16, this year. Pursuant to the current requirement, they shall hold a valid certificate when engaged in the specified work.

Further details of the arrangement can also be downloaded through the link below

<https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2020/SH-2020-30e-LD.pdf>

If you have any enquiries, please contact the Occupational Safety and Health Training Centre of the Labour Department on 2940 7054 or 2940 7076.