

Safety & Health Alert No. 47/2020 Announcement from Labour Department – Flexible arrangement for Employees who are unable to complete Mandatory Safety Training Revalidation Courses in time (Latest arrangement of September 2020)

Date: 16 Sep. 2020
Our Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

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

Owing to the third wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, employees may not be able to enrol in Mandatory Safety Training (MST) revalidation courses ("revalidation courses") before the expiry of admission period¹, viz. those holding an MST certificate having expiry date fall within the period of (i) December 30, 2019 to June 15, 2020 or (ii) June 16 to September 15, 2020, LD now updates/ introduces the special arrangements as follows:-

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

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

**Table 1: Implementation Period of Special Arrangements and
Admission Deadlines for Revalidation Courses
(For Employees holding an MST certificate having expiry date
from December 30, 2019 to June 15, 2020)**

	Revalidation Courses [Column A]	Expiry date of MST certificates [Column B]	Deadlines for employees unable to enrol in 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	Expired on Jul. 15, 2020 (Applicable to container handling)	Sep. 15, 2020 (Applicable to container handling)
			Oct. 31, 2020 (Applicable to construction work)	
(ii)	Gas Welding Safety Training		Expired on Jul. 15, 2020	Sep. 15, 2020
(iii)	Training for Crane Operators		Expired on Jul. 15, 2020	Dec. 15, 2020
(iv)	Training for Loadshifting Machinery Operators		Sep. 15, 2020	Oct. 15, 2020
(v)	Training for Persons Working on Suspended Working Platforms		Sep. 30, 2020	Jan. 31, 2021
(vi)	Confined Spaces Safety Training		Oct. 15, 2020 (Applicable to Competent Persons) Dec. 15, 2020 (Applicable to Certified Workers)	

Table 2: Implementation Period of Special Arrangements and Admission Deadlines for Revalidation Courses
(For Employees holding an MST certificate having expiry date from June 16, 2020 to September 15, 2020)

	Revalidation Courses [Column A]	Expiry date of MST certificates [Column B]	Deadlines for employees unable to enrol in 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	Jun. 16, 2020 to Sep. 15, 2020	Nov. 15, 2020 (Applicable to container handling and construction work)	Dec. 15, 2020 (Applicable to container handling and construction work)
(ii)	Gas Welding Safety Training		Nov. 15, 2020	Dec. 15, 2020
(iii)	Training for Crane Operators		Nov. 15, 2020	Mar. 15, 2021
(iv)	Training for Loadshifting Machinery Operators		Nov. 15, 2020	Dec. 15, 2020
(v)	Training for Persons Working on Suspended Working Platforms		Jan. 15, 2021	Mar. 15, 2021
(vi)	Confined Spaces Safety Training		Jan. 15, 2021 (Applicable to Competent Persons and Certified Workers)	

- Employees holding an MST certificate with expiry date falling within the period specified in column B of Table 1 should apply for the revalidation courses as soon as possible. LD will not further extend the periods of the relevant special arrangement. Furthermore, in

view of the anticipated pressing demand for enrolment of revalidation courses, employees holding an MST certificate with an expiry date falling within the period specified in column B of Table 2 should approach the training course providers and apply for the relevant revalidation course as soon as possible.

- LD emphasises that the above arrangements are exceptional in light of the epidemic, and should not be seen as a precedent.
- When employing employees who are not able to enrol in the relevant revalidation courses in time pursuant to the above special arrangements, employers shall continue to comply with other provisions under the occupational safety and health laws, so as to ensure the work safety and health of these employees and to prevent occurrence of accidents. Such employees should also be arranged to peruse the “Work Safety Alerts” animation videos and related information relevant to their 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 September 16, this year. Pursuant to the current requirement, they shall hold a valid certificate when engaged in the specified work.

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