Singapore Manufacturers' Federation
新加坡制造商联合会

Standards Development Organisation

MEDIA RELEASE

Companies can adopt safety standards as a way to raise productivity

Singapore – October 28, 2011 – Companies that adopt Standards in Workplace Safety & Health can reduce downtime from accidents and thereby raise productivity. The Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMa) said at the launch of its new Centre of Excellence – the SMa-Standards Development Organisation (SMa-SDO), encouraging companies to include Standards as part of their action plan in raising productivity.

At the launch today, SMa-SDO presented the first two revised Singapore Standards in Workplace Safety & Health. They are the:

- SS 567:2011 Code of Practice for Factory Layout – safety, health & welfare considerations;
- SS 568:2011 Code of Practice for Confined Spaces

Both Standards are revisions of two existing Codes of Practice – CP 27: 1999 and CP 84: 2000, which were last reviewed more than 10 years ago. They provide recommended guidelines on safety, health and welfare of employees as specified by relevant national and international standards, and have been revised to be in line with the current safety and health at work legislation in Singapore.

Revisions for SS 567 include risk assessments and control measures; alignment of guidelines to the updated Code of Practice for Fire Precautions in Building; revision of guidelines for cranes, toxic and hazardous substances; as well as requirements on lighting, ventilation, noise, heat and first aid.

For SS 568, updates were made to the qualification of appointed personnel associated with confined space works. It was also updated to ensure the relevance of the Standard to local regulations and good practices, as well as other information relating to training, warning signage (Annex A), etc.

"In our drive for productivity, SMa encourages the Singapore manufacturers to adopt Standards as a tool or business strategy to raise productivity," said SMa Secretary-General Mr Gwee Seng Kwong. "The two Standards now include more guidelines and good practices in safety, health and welfare that will help companies reduce workplace injury and prevent fatal accidents, thus avoiding any disruption in operation that will impact productivity."

“SMa-SDO will be launching another two Standards by this year, and by March next year, it would have had completed more than 40 standards. SMa’s role in standard development will complement the offerings by our other Centres of Excellence to provide a more holistic productivity solution for the industry,” added Mr Gwee.

Deputy Chief Executive of SPRING Singapore, Mr Tan Kai Hoe said: "The close collaboration with SPRING and SMa in forming SMa-SDO strengthens our industry engagement and efforts to reach out to the industry to encourage them to use standards. I am very happy that SMa-SDO has very quickly completed the revision of the two Standards to launch SS 567 on Factory Layout and SS 568 on Confined Spaces today. I am confident that SMa-SDO together with SPRING will continue the good work towards launching more standards in the areas of General Engineering & Safety, Food and Biomedical to raise productivity."

The “Launch of SMa-SDO and Singapore Standards for Workplace Safety & Health” seminar was held on Oct 28 at the Holiday Inn Atrium, and attended by about 150 engineers, safety officers, EHS consultants, factory owners and occupants.

The Singapore Standard SS 567: 2011 and SS 568: 2011 books can be bought online at www.singaporestandardseshop.sg.

Note: Please use “SMa” if an acronym for “Singapore Manufacturers’ Federation” is required. The “a” in “SMa” does NOT stand for “Association”.

- End-

About Singapore Manufacturers' Federation (SMa)
Established since 1932, SMa represents the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community, driving its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs.
Supported by 11 industry groups and Centres of Excellence, SMa offers a holistic approach towards enhancing competitiveness of its members. Current membership stands at more than 2,800 corporate members ranging from SMEs to MNCs.
For more information, please visit www.sma.sg.

About SMa-Standards Development Organisation (SMa-SDO)
SMa-SDO is supported by SPRING Singapore and endorsed by the Standards Council to manage the development, promotion and implementation of standards and to participate in relevant international standardisation activities for three Standards Committees as follows:

- Food Standards Committee (FSC)
- General Engineering & Safety Standards Committee (GESSC)
- Biomedical Standards Committee (BMSC)

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ANNEX A

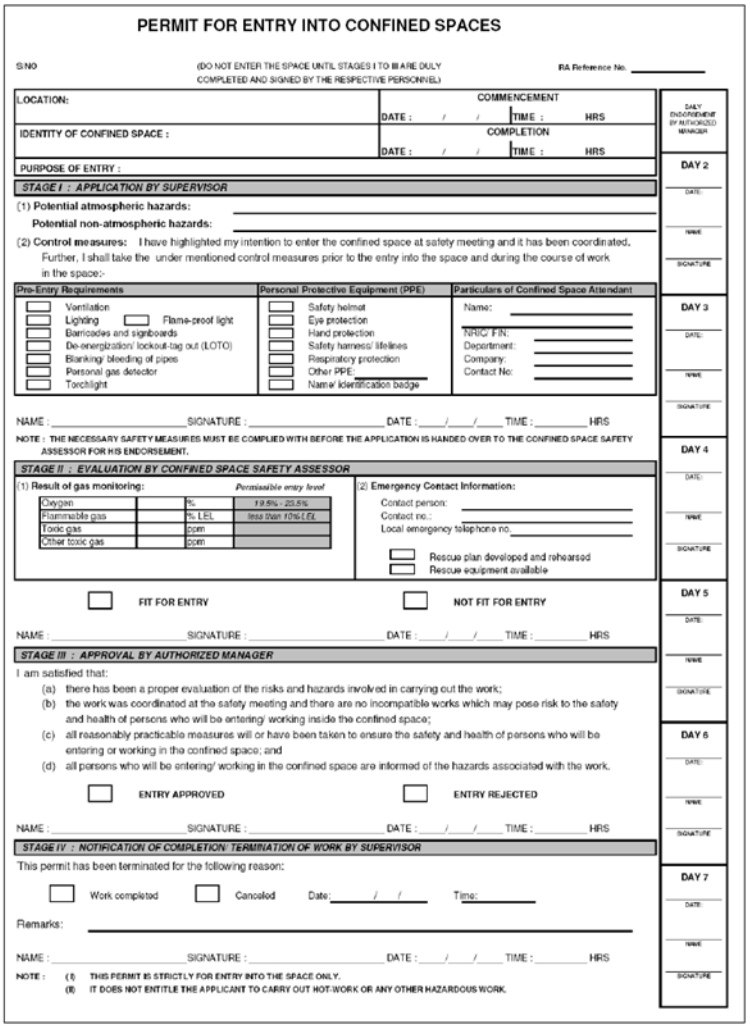
SS 568:2011 Code of Practice for Confined Spaces

Here are two example of updates for which companies have to adhere to:

1) The display of the Warning & Potential Hazard Sign

Size of signage must be in compliance to SS 508 -1 and SS 508-3

2) Sample Entry Permit Form



PERMIT FOR ENTRY INTO CONFINED SPACES

S/NO (DO NOT ENTER THE SPACE UNTIL STAGES I TO III ARE DULY COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THE RESPECTIVE PERSONNEL) RA Reference No. _____

LOCATION: | COMMENCEMENT DATE : / / TIME : HRS

IDENTITY OF CONFINED SPACE : | COMPLETION DATE : / / TIME : HRS

PURPOSE OF ENTRY :

DAILY ENDORSEMENT BY AUTHORIZED MANAGER

DAY 2 / DAY 3 / DAY 4 / DAY 5 / DAY 6 / DAY 7 — DATE: NAME: SIGNATURE:

STAGE I : APPLICATION BY SUPERVISOR

(1) **Potential atmospheric hazards:** _____

Potential non-atmospheric hazards: _____

(2) **Control measures:** I have highlighted my intention to enter the confined space at safety meeting and it has been coordinated. Further, I shall take the under mentioned control measures prior to the entry into the space and during the course of work in the space:-

Pre-Entry Requirements	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Particulars of Confined Space Attendant
☐ Ventilation ☐ Lighting ☐ Flame-proof light ☐ Barricades and signboards ☐ De-energization/ lockout-tag out (LOTO) ☐ Blanking/ bleeding of pipes ☐ Personal gas detector ☐ Torchlight	☐ Safety helmet ☐ Eye protection ☐ Hand protection ☐ Safety harness/ lifelines ☐ Respiratory protection ☐ Other PPE: _____ ☐ Name/ Identification badge	Name: _____ NRIC/ FIN: _____ Department: _____ Company: _____ Contact No: _____

NAME : _____ SIGNATURE : _____ DATE : ____/____/____ TIME : _____ HRS

NOTE : THE NECESSARY SAFETY MEASURES MUST BE COMPLIED WITH BEFORE THE APPLICATION IS HANDED OVER TO THE CONFINED SPACE SAFETY ASSESSOR FOR HIS ENDORSEMENT.

STAGE II : EVALUATION BY CONFINED SPACE SAFETY ASSESSOR

(1) **Result of gas monitoring:**

			Permissible entry level
Oxygen		%	*19.5% - 23.5%*
Flammable gas		% LEL	*less than 10% LEL*
Toxic gas		ppm	
Other toxic gas		ppm	

(2) **Emergency Contact Information:**

Contact person: _____

Contact no.: _____

Local emergency telephone no: _____

☐ Rescue plan developed and rehearsed

☐ Rescue equipment available

☐ **FIT FOR ENTRY** ☐ **NOT FIT FOR ENTRY**

NAME : _____ SIGNATURE : _____ DATE : ____/____/____ TIME : _____ HRS

STAGE III : APPROVAL BY AUTHORIZED MANAGER

I am satisfied that:

(a) there has been a proper evaluation of the risks and hazards involved in carrying out the work;

(b) the work was coordinated at the safety meeting and there are no incompatible works which may pose risk to the safety and health of persons who will be entering/ working inside the confined space;

(c) all reasonably practicable measures will or have been taken to ensure the safety and health of persons who will be entering or working in the confined space; and

(d) all persons who will be entering/ working in the confined space are informed of the hazards associated with the work.

☐ **ENTRY APPROVED** ☐ **ENTRY REJECTED**

NAME : _____ SIGNATURE : _____ DATE : ____/____/____ TIME : _____ HRS

STAGE IV : NOTIFICATION OF COMPLETION/ TERMINATION OF WORK BY SUPERVISOR

This permit has been terminated for the following reason:

☐ Work completed ☐ Cancelled Date: ____/____/____ Time: _____

Remarks: _____

NAME : _____ SIGNATURE : _____ DATE : ____/____/____ TIME : _____ HRS

NOTE : (I) THIS PERMIT IS STRICTLY FOR ENTRY INTO THE SPACE ONLY.

(II) IT DOES NOT ENTITLE THE APPLICANT TO CARRY OUT HOT-WORK OR ANY OTHER HAZARDOUS WORK.

“Previously, there was no Standard Guide for the Permit To Entry Form for confined space. Now, there is a Standard layout for this form. This facilitates our implementation, as opposed to us coming up with our own form. With regards to the hazard sign, if I come up with own special sign, people may not understand or may question me as to whether this is the correct layout. With this as a standard, everyone would understand,” said Mr Tan Kay Chen, EHS Manager, Sato Kogyo (S) Pte Ltd.

Glossary

Singapore Manufacturers' Federation	新加坡制造商联合会
SMa-Standards Development Organisation	新加坡制造商联合会 标准研发机构
Tan Kai Hoe **Deputy Chief Executive** **SPRING Singapore**	陈开河 副局长 标新局
Gwee Seng Kwong **Secretary-General** **Singapore Manufacturers' Federation**	危森光 秘书长 新加坡制造商联合会