

**Launch of SMa-SDO and
Singapore Standards for Workplace Safety & Health**

Friday, 28th October 2011, 2pm

Holiday Inn Atrium, Level 4 Ballroom

**Welcome Address by
Mr Gwee Seng Kwong
Singapore Manufacturers' Federation, Secretary-General**

5 mins

- **Deputy Chief Executive, SPRING Singapore
Mr Tan Kai Hoe**
- **Chairman of General Engineering and Safety Standards
Committee
Mr Chan Yew Kwong**
- **President, Singapore Manufacturers' Federation
Mr George Huang**
- **Distinguished guest**
- **Ladies and Gentleman**

Welcome

1. Good afternoon to all. Thank you for taking time to attend this seminar.
2. In June this year, the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation, or SMa in short, was appointed by SPRING Singapore to assist in the development, promotion and implementation of standards as well as to

participate in relevant international standardization activities for three Standards Committees. These Standard Committees include:

- Food Standards
- General Engineering & Safety Standards
- Biomedical Standards

3. To achieve this goal, SMA established the SMA–Standards Development Organisation, or SMA-SDO - to undertake this task.

4. In most Standards development work, volunteers from the industry contribute their expertise and experience, and secretariat support is provided by SPRING. While this is good, it has its limitations as SPRING does not have the bandwidth to help companies implement the Standards. Now with the formation of the dedicated secretariat team, and supported by SMA's other centres of excellence, SMA-SDO can provide a more holistic Standards solutions for the industry, from

- a. Standards development, to
- b. promotion, to
- c. adoption, and finally to
- d. implementation.

5. To date, the SMA-SDO has assisted in the completion of the

- a. Code of Practice for Factory Layout for Safety, Health & Welfare considerations; and
- b. Code of Practice for confined spaces.

Our Guest-of-Honour Mr Tan Kai Hoe will elaborate on this, in a while.

6. Thanks to the guidance provided by Mr Tan Jin Soon, currently our Executive Advisor in SDO, who is a veteran in standards development, we were able to take over the work by SPRING quickly and revise the two standards to launch today. In total, by March next year, we'd have completed 40 standards. (Understand that next month, two more Standards will be launched).

Driving productivity through Centres of Excellence

7. In general, standards are a set of guidelines and best practices that promote quality, reliability, safety and environmental friendliness of processes, products and services. Companies that maintain standards consistently in their products and services can win customers' confidence and trust; while building brand equity over time.
8. At the same time, standards can also be adopted as a tool or business strategy to improve productivity and reap savings. Take for example the Cold-Chain Standard for milk and dairy products. The industry looked at the entire value chain– from the farmers, warehouse to the retailers, and set a standard for each player in this chain such that everyone had a part in ensuring that the temperature range is kept under control. For milk in particular, the standards have helped lengthened its shelf life from 18 to 24 days. Translated in dollars and cents, we have helped the industry reap an annual savings of \$260,000 per year.
9. So, with today's launch of the two Standards, we hope that the overall workplace injury can continue to be reduced, just as it has decreased

from 2009 to 2010, by about 5%. (Taken from WSHC Annual Report 2010). We believe that these Standards will go a long way in helping Workplace Safety & Health Council (WSHC) to achieve its vision of achieving “the national fatality rate to less than 1.8 per 100,000 workers by 2018.”

10. So, please take Standards seriously – internally, it can provide a safer working environment, while externally, it can project a consistent image of reliability, which can impact your bottomline.

11. And for those concerned with improving your company’s productivity, yes, Standards when implemented effectively, will also increase productivity because it can help you reduce downtime. So, I encourage you to approach any of the SMA staff here today to explore and discuss your adoption of Standards. Or for any of the productivity growth solutions that SMA, as the one-stop shop, can offer you to stay ahead of the competition.

Conclusion

12. In conclusion, I’d like to thank our standard partners, for their commitment and contributions, in the successful completion of these standards.

13. On behalf of SMA, I would first like to thank SPRING – for its confidence in SMA to carry out develop and implement these standards. I’d also like to thank the Chairman of the General Engineering & Safety Standards Committee, Mr Chan Yew Kwong for his leadership; and also

the Chairman of the Technical Committee on Workplace Safety & Health Mr Seet Chon San for his guidance to the Working Groups.

14. Our special thanks also to the Working Group Convenors Mr Yeong Chark Sung, Ms Veronica Chow and Mr Yeo Kim Hock, as well as all the members of the two Working Groups, for their dedicated efforts in the successful completion of the reviews of the two standards.
15. Last but not least, I'd like to thank the Workplace Safety and Health Council; the Singapore Contractors Association; and the Singapore Institution of Safety Officers for their support in this seminar.
16. I hope all of you will find today's seminar an informative one and adopt Standards in your workplace – for productivity; for safety; for health & welfare of your employees. Thank you.