

EA Alert Dated: 5 August 2015

EA Alert: Ensuring Acceptable Accommodation for Non-Domestic Foreign Workers

1 As part of a service to your clients, we understand that you may offer to source for accommodation for your clients' foreign workers. We would like to advise you to ensure that the accommodation you source is approved and acceptable, and does not endanger the foreign workers' safety or compromise their well-being.¹

2 If you are housing the foreign workers in a private residential unit, please ensure that there are not more than 8 occupants in that unit as stipulated by the guidelines set by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). You may also refer to the MOM website for more information on housing requirements for all other acceptable accommodation types.

3 The Ministry would like to inform you that under the Work Pass Conditions, your clients (the employers) are responsible to ensure that their foreign workers are housed in approved and acceptable accommodation.

4 Failure to ensure the foreign workers are housed in proper accommodation is a contravention under the Work Pass Conditions. Any person who commits or abets the contravention may be prosecuted and if convicted, may be fined up to \$10,000 or jailed up to 12 months, or both for each contravention. An EA licence may also be affected if the EA commits serious breaches under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act.

Yours sincerely

Brian Wong

Senior Assistant Director, Foreign Manpower Management Division, Ministry of Manpower
Assistant Commissioner for Employment Agencies

¹Acceptable accommodation are premises which have been approved by URA or other relevant authorities to house workers. These premises must also comply with the various statutory requirements such as proper land use by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), the Housing and Development Board (HDB) or the Jurong Town Corporation (JTC), environmental health requirements by the National Environment Agency (NEA), fire safety by the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), building structural safety by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and drainage and sanitary/sewage system by the Public Utilities Board (PUB).