

8 June 2020

EMPLOYERS TO ENSURE PROVISION OF FOOD FOR FOREIGN WORKERS LIVING IN PURPOSE-BUILT DORMITORIES THAT ARE CLEARED

We would like to inform employers to ensure the provision of food for their foreign workers in purpose-built dormitories (PBDs) or blocks that are cleared.

2. As announced by the Inter-agency Task Force (ITF) on Monday 1 June 2020, we are systematically and progressively clearing PBDs in the coming months so that workers may resume work, while safeguarding the health of all the residents. The residents living in these cleared PBDs or blocks are workers who have fully recovered or were tested negative. The list of cleared dormitories and dormitories to be cleared in the coming weeks are available at <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/cleared-dormitories>.

Employers responsible to ensure that foreign workers in cleared PBDs have sufficient food

3. When a PBD or block is declared cleared, dormitory operators will be given a week's advance notice to make the necessary food arrangements with the employers for their foreign workers. Thereafter, the ITF will stop the provision of catered meals for these foreign workers¹, and require the employers to resume their responsibility of providing upkeep and maintenance of their workers.

4. Employers are required to ensure that their foreign workers in the PBDs or blocks, that are declared cleared, have access to sufficient food². Employers should work closely with the dormitory operator, and come to a mutual agreement on the arrangement to provide food for the workers. Employers may consider the following options:

- a) Arrange for catered food to be delivered to the workers (if the dormitory operator is engaging a caterer on behalf of employers to deliver food for all workers, we strongly encourage employers to consider this option);
- b) Arrange for groceries to be delivered to the workers, if they have access to cooking facilities;
- c) Provide food to the workers at the worksite, if they are allowed to leave the dormitory for work; or
- d) Allow the workers to place orders for meal delivery services, in-house canteen (if available) or groceries, and reimburse the workers accordingly.

¹ Due to the large number of workers and movement restrictions across the purpose-built dormitories (PBDs), the Inter-agency Task Force (ITF) has used professional caterers to provide meals to the workers as a practical and interim measure, in view of ongoing COVID-19 infections in the dormitories since April 2020.

² The requirement is imposed by the Controller of Work Passes under section 7(4A) of the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act (Cap. 91A).

5. If employers fail to ensure that their workers have access to sufficient food and confirm the arrangements, the dormitory operator will arrange for catered food for the workers and bill the employers accordingly.

6. We seek your cooperation to ensure the wellbeing of your workers. You may direct any clarifications to mom_peb@mom.gov.sg. Thank you.

Ministry of Manpower