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CLOSE CONTACT WORKERS CAN CONTINUE TO WORK UNDER A NEW “SAFE WORK BUBBLE” PROTOCOL WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFE@WORK STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Reference is made to the [STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE \(SOP\) SAFE@WORK FOR MANUFACTURING AND ITS RELATED SERVICES SECTOR](#) by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) dated 19 March 2021.

Safe@Work is introduced by MITI for companies in the manufacturing sector to isolate workers identified as close contacts of a Covid-19 case. Close contact workers could continue to work under a new “safe work bubble” procedure.

Below is the summary of the Safe@Work SOP:

1. Safe Work Bubble

- (i) Workers will be isolated into groups in hostels and factories. The purpose of this safe work bubble is to allow close contact workers to continue working in the factory even if test results have not been obtained.
- (ii) This will enable **businesses to continue to operate even when there are positive cases at the workplace.**
- (iii) Under the current practice, workers identified as close contacts with COVID-19 positive employees must undergo mandatory quarantine. They are not allowed to work until all the other close contacts are confirmed free of Covid-19 after being screened.

2. Registration

- (i) The implementation of Safe@Work initiative by companies in the manufacturing and related services sector is voluntary.
- (ii) Interested companies can submit their registration through **MITI COVID-19 Intelligence Management System (CIMS)** <https://notification.miti.gov.my/login> starting from **1 April 2021.**
- (iii) Upon registration, companies would be audited for compliance to SOP. Companies that pass the auditing would qualify for Safe@Work.

3. Implementation

- (i) Companies would need to form an in-house Covid-19 Preparedness and Emergency Response Team (PERT) for the preparation and implementation of emergency case **management procedures** (if there is an infection or investigation of COVID-19 infection).
- (ii) The **management procedures** should cover the protocol for:
 - (a) Activities at workplace
 - (b) Health screening
 - (c) Case management
 - (d) Employee accommodation
 - (e) Employee transportation
 - (f) Monitoring process

MPMA **strongly** encourages its members and the industry to participate in this Safe@Work initiative by MITI to **reduce infection risk** to break the Covid-19 chain and keep the **economy functional** in ensuring our **factory floors continue to operate.**

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