

Dear SPMA Members and Industry Partners,

1 All of us would have heard of the COVID-19 phase 2 (heightened alert) measures starting from 16 May 2021 (Sunday) until 13 June 2021 (Sunday) (both dates inclusive).

2 SPMA has been in touch with our NEA and SFA partners to address some of the concerns that may arise during this period. As these COVID-19 phase 2 (heightened alert) measures are fluid and may be updated with new requirements, please note that any subsequent government-issued guidelines will take precedence over the information shared below. Please also note that this guide is for pest management companies only will be updated to the best of SPMA's knowledge.

3 During this period, the permissible group size of maximum 5 persons has been reduced to maximum 2 persons, workplace interactions should be minimised, and there is cessation of indoor "Mask-off" activities and dining-in at food establishments.

4 MOM has also tightened Safe Management Measures for the workplace as follows:

- Employers must ensure that all employees who are able to work from home do so, review work processes to enable remote working as much as possible, and pay special attention to vulnerable employees;
- For employees at the workplace, employers should continue to stagger start times and allow flexible workplace hours. There should not be cross-deployment across worksites, and employers should avoid organising work-related events;
- Social gatherings at the workplace are disallowed, and employees should have their meal breaks at the workplace individually;
- Continue to step up cleaning and disinfection of workplace premises; and
- Continue to implement Safe Management Measures, etc.

5 More information can be obtained from MOM's website and MOH's website, as follows:

- <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/updates-on-local-situation-and-heightened-alert-to-minimise-transmission-14May>
- <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/reply-to-media-queries-14May>
- <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/requirements-for-safe-management-measures>
- <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/safe-management-measures>

### **General questions:**

GQ 01: Are there any requirements to apply for permits to work for our pest management services?

Ans to 01: Please refer to the MOM website link attached, where MOM has conveyed Multi-Ministry Task Force's earlier announcement that selected activities and services will be allowed to gradually resume operations from 12 May 2020. (<https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/safe-management-measures>). Companies that fall under the list of activities and services do not need to apply for permits before resuming operations. The list of permitted services includes pest control companies with SSIC codes starting with 81. ([https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/images/covid/Permitted%20Services%20\(11%20May\).pdf](https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/images/covid/Permitted%20Services%20(11%20May).pdf))

(Should NEA be notified of any changes, NEA will relay the information to SPMA for further dissemination to the pest management industry.)

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GQ 02: Are there any set requirements to the number of deployable staff?

#### **2a: Staff as in vector control technician / vector control workers**

Ans to 2a: NEA has not been informed of any fixed requirements on the number of deployable staff, but notes that MOM has mandated clear physical spacing of at least 1 metre, and demarcation of safe physical distances of at least 1m apart between all persons at work areas. (Should NEA be notified of any changes, NEA will relay these to SPMA for further dissemination to the pest management industry.)

#### **2b: Staff as in support roles**

(Admin; Accounts; HR; Sales; Management etc., non-exhaustive list)

Ans to 2b: Staff in this category have to work from home (WFH) by default based on MOM's circular dated 14 May 2021. ([Requirements for Safe Management Measures at the workplace \(mom.gov.sg\)](#))

- i. Employers must ensure that all employees **who are able to work from home do so.***
- ii. Employers are encouraged to support as many employees in working from home as possible. This will help to limit the number of employees exposed at the workplace at any point in time, and reduce crowding in*

*common areas, e.g. pantries, toilets, lifts. Having more employees work from home will also help sustain business operations should a case emerge at the workplace.*

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GQ 03: Are there any set limits to the number of occupants in a vehicle meant for pest management services?

Ans to GQ 03: No additional information received to indicate any changes to number of occupants.

(Should NEA be notified of any changes, NEA will relay these to SPMA for further dissemination to the pest management industry.)

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GQ 04: How does the definition of reduction of group size from 5 persons to 2 persons during this Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) period apply to our pest management company operations?

Ans to GQ 04: The definition of reduction of group size from 5 persons to 2 persons apply to social gathering purposes.

While there were no instructions that the definition applied to our pest management services (reference to our pest management services conducted by our vector control technicians and workers),. any deployment of pest management services (reference to our pest management services conducted by our vector control technicians and workers) must adhere to the latest COVID-19 safe management measures @ [gov.sg](https://www.gov.sg) | [Additional restrictions under Phase 2 \(Heightened Alert\) to minimise transmission \(www.gov.sg\)](https://www.gov.sg)

and MOM's circular dated 14 May 2021 @ [Requirements for Safe Management Measures at the workplace \(mom.gov.sg\)](https://www.mom.gov.sg)

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### **Pest Management Industry Operations related questions from members –**

PMQ 01: A SPMA member company has enquired “how about certain jobs that need 03 or more people to carry out pest management services in residential homes; is that allowed still or is it capped at 02 people?”

Ans to PMQ 01: NEA has not been informed of any fixed requirements about the number of deployable staff, but notes that MOM has mandated clear physical spacing of at least 1 metre, and demarcation of safe physical distances of at least 1m apart between all persons at work areas. (Should NEA be notified of any changes, NEA will relay these to SPMA for further dissemination to the pest management industry.)

While pest management works may still be carried out during this period; do take note of under MOM's circular dated 14 May 2021 @ [Requirements for Safe Management Measures at the workplace \(mom.gov.sg\)](https://www.mom.gov.sg/Requirements-for-Safe-Management-Measures-at-the-workplace)

Extract under item 6:

- a. **No cross-deployment across worksites<sup>7</sup>:** *No employee should work at more than one worksite. If cross-deployment cannot be avoided (e.g. due to the nature of the job), additional safeguards must be taken to minimise the risk of cross infection<sup>8</sup>.*

*This will not apply to industries / companies that need to do so due to the nature of their work. Such companies will be required to demonstrate that cross-deployment or interaction between employees is critical for business operations, when requested by MOM or their sector agencies.*

*E.g. systems are in place to ensure no direct contact between the cross-deployed personnel.*

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PMQ 02: A few SPMA member companies has shared that while conducting pest management and/or fumigation services, their clients has imposed additional limits / restrictions such as limiting the number of staff per vehicle to 02 persons, setting safe distancing of each staff at 2 metres and no intermingling between staff after services are completed.

Ans to PMQ 02: SPMA has not received any updates / information from any specific government agency or statutory boards or organisations or business sectors on having specific requirements to the pest management industry above the current requirements.

However, in view that our pest management staff are being allowed into entering of client's premises to conduct our pest management services, it will be appropriate to discuss the additional imposed measures and reach a mutual understanding with the involved client's representative.

Feedback can be sent to via SPMA at [contactus@spma.org.sg](mailto:contactus@spma.org.sg) or the following SPMA Sectoral Leads for the respective sectors:

Fumigation Industry related matters

- Ms Bavani Palanivellu ([bavani.p@spma.org.sg](mailto:bavani.p@spma.org.sg))
- Mr Noh Bin Mohd ([noh@spma.org.sg](mailto:noh@spma.org.sg))

Construction Industry related matters

- Mr Richard Wong ([richard.w@spma.org.sg](mailto:richard.w@spma.org.sg))

Wildlife related matters

- Mr Ivan Goh ([ivangoh@spma.org.sg](mailto:ivangoh@spma.org.sg))
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**Food & Beverage Industry related questions –**

SSQ FB01: Do food establishments that are shut during this period from 16 May 2021 (Sunday) to 13 June 2021 (Sunday), require pest management services?

Ans to SSQ FB01: Accordingly to SFA's requirement, food establishments including business that are shut during this period must continue to engage pest control services at least once a month.

Feedback can be sent to SFA at <https://csp.sfa.gov.sg/feedback> or via SPMA at [contactus@spma.org.sg](mailto:contactus@spma.org.sg) or the SPMA Sectoral Lead for Food & Beverage related matters:

- Ms Lily Lim ([lilylim@spma.org.sg](mailto:lilylim@spma.org.sg))
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**This FAQ is updated as at 17 May 2021 Version 01**