

## FACTSHEET ON RISK MANAGEMENT 2.0

### Background

Risk management (RM) is an important tool in identifying hazards, assessing the risk, and implementing measures to control or minimise the risk. Every workplace should put in place an effective RM to ensure that all employees are working in a safe and healthy environment.

2 To help companies better assess risks and hazards at work, the Ministry of Manpower and the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Council have enhanced the risk management framework.

### RM Enhancements (RM 2.0)

3 Risk Management 2.0, or RM 2.0, focuses on three key principles.

- i. Risk management should not be a paper exercise  
Risk management must be implemented to be effective. Employers must also regularly review and improve their risk assessment to enhance risk control at the workplace.

Therefore, risk control measures that were documented during the risk assessment process should be executed and implemented.

- ii. Always reduce risks at source  
Following the principles of the Hierarchy of Control<sup>1</sup>, eliminating risks should always be the first step in identifying, evaluating and controlling risks at the workplace.

However, if elimination is not possible, the next step is to substitute with a safer material or method, to minimise exposure to the risk. If neither approach is feasible, applying engineering controls or administrative measures such as training workers should be considered.

Use of personal protective equipment should only be applied last as the last line of defence against hazards.

For example, instead of using a solvent-based paint, which is highly flammable, we can substitute it with a water-based paint. This also helps

---

<sup>1</sup> Hierarchy of Control is an approach of eliminating and minimising risks systematically. Generally, it is more effective to use a combination of risk controls along the Hierarchy.

to eliminate the risk of fire and minimise storage of flammable material in the workplace.

iii. Adopt a holistic approach

RM should consider other personal health factors such as ill health, fatigue, lack of concentration or reduced mental alertness that can compromise the ability to work safely which may lead to work accidents.

RM must also cover workplace health hazards such as exposure to noise, chemicals and ergonomics risks; which tend to be less obvious compared to safety hazards and are often neglected during risk assessment.

In addition, other factors such as compatibility of work activities that occur simultaneously within close proximity, non-routine work situations such as maintenance, servicing and troubleshooting activities, and environmental conditions should be included.

Working long hours can also lead to mental fatigue and can compromise safety. Hence, employers should consider giving employees regular short breaks to allow them to rest and reenergize.

4 As part of the review of the RM framework, the Approved Code of Practice WSH RM has been revised to emphasise the three key elements of RM 2.0.