



اوتوريٽي ڪيٽيگري ڪملاڻن
ڪميٽي ڊان عالم سڪيٽر
Safety, Health and Environment
National Authority

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH NOTICE (WSHN)

TOPIC WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH PRECAUTIONS DURING HAZY CONDITIONS				Reference Number 2026/WSHN/04
Approved by: Director of Compliance and Registration Division	Endorsed by: Chief Executive Officer	Issue date: 3 September 2026	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 1

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (**SHENA**) issues this Notice to remind all principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons and persons at work to **exercise heightened vigilance and implement appropriate measures to manage workplace safety and health risks arising from prevailing hazy conditions.**

Reference is made to the [Joint Press Release](#) issued on 30th August 2026 by the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (**JASTRe**), the Ministry of Health (**MOH**) and the Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department (**BDMD**), which reported that Brunei Darussalam is experiencing hazy conditions amid hot and dry weather conditions and reduced rainfall. As air quality and weather conditions may change, workplaces should continue to monitor official updates issued by the relevant government agencies and review their risk assessments and precautionary measures accordingly.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH RISKS

Where work activities result in significant exposure to haze, it should be recognised as an occupational health and safety hazard and managed in accordance with the workplace risk management framework. Hazy conditions may expose persons at work to airborne particulate matter, such as PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, and other pollutants¹ that may adversely affect health. Depending

¹ The World Health Organization (WHO) defines PM₁₀ as particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 µm or smaller. Both PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} can penetrate the respiratory system. However, finer PM_{2.5} particles can travel deeper into the lungs and may enter the bloodstream, potentially affecting the respiratory and cardiovascular systems and other organs. Source: [WHO, What are the WHO Air Quality Guidelines?, 2021.](#)

on the nature, duration, and intensity of exposure, persons at work may face a range of safety and health risks, including but not limited to:

- **Adverse health effects:** Elevated exposure to airborne particulate matter may cause coughing, headaches, and irritation of the eyes, nose or throat and may aggravate existing conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cardiovascular disease. Individuals with existing respiratory or cardiovascular diseases, pregnant women, older persons and those with dust allergies may be **more susceptible** to the effects of haze.
- **Increased outdoor work exposure:** Persons undertaking **prolonged** (continuous exposure for several hours) or **strenuous** (involving high energy exertion) outdoor work may experience greater exposure, as they breathe more rapidly and deeply.
- **Reduced visibility:** May **increase the risks** of road traffic and machinery-related incidents, as well as slips, trips and falls during outdoor work.
- **Deterioration of indoor air quality:** Haze may also affect indoor environments where outdoor air enters the workplace, including through open doors and windows or through inadequate ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

RELEVANT LEGAL DUTIES

(1) Section 12(3)(a) of the **Workplace Safety and Health Act, Chapter 277 (WSHA, Cap 277)**

Employers are required, so far as is reasonably practicable, to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and health of persons at work. This includes providing and maintaining a work environment that is safe, without risk to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.

(2) Regulation 3 and 4 of **WSH (Risk Management) Regulations**

Employers, self-employed persons and principals must, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- Conduct a risk assessment in relation to the safety and health risks posed to persons who may be affected by their undertaking; and
- Eliminate foreseeable risks or, where elimination is not reasonably practicable, implement appropriate and effective risk-control measures.

In fulfilling these duties, workplaces should assess the risks arising from the hazy conditions for persons undertaking both indoor and outdoor work activities. Based on the risk assessment, appropriate precautions should be identified and implemented, considering prevailing Pollutant Standards Index (**PSI**) readings, health advisories, weather conditions, visibility levels, and any official guidance issued by relevant government agencies. Where PSI readings increase, air quality

deteriorates, or official advisories indicate a heightened risk, workplaces should implement **progressively more stringent precautionary measures**, taking into account the nature of the work, duration of exposure, workplace environment, and the health status of the affected persons. These precautions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

1. Monitor conditions and review the risk assessment

- Continuously monitor the official PSI readings, weather information and health advisories issued by JASTRe, MOH and BDMD.
- Review and where necessary, update the risk assessment whenever air quality, weather conditions, work activities or official advisories change.
- Identify work that may be affected by haze, particularly prolonged or strenuous outdoor work, driving, machinery operation and lifting activities where visibility is important.
- Where haze coincides with hot and humid weather, assess and manage heat-stress risks with reference to [2025/NTI/07: Reminder to Manage Risks of Heat Stress in the Workplace](#).**



2. Adjust outdoor work where necessary

- Where reasonably practicable, reduce, re-schedule or relocate prolonged or strenuous outdoor work to reduce exposure to haze.
- Consider appropriate and flexible work arrangements, such as rotating workers or adjusting assignments, to limit outdoor exposure where necessary.
- Use suitable mechanical aids, such as trolleys or pallet jacks, where appropriate to reduce strenuous manual work.
- Where haze coincides with hot weather, provide suitable rest breaks and adequate drinking water, taking into account the risk of heat stress.
- Where visibility is significantly reduced, assess whether vehicle operations, lifting activities, work at height, or other safety-critical tasks should be postponed or suspended.



3. Protect persons who are more susceptible to haze

- Give additional considerations to workers who may be more susceptible to the effect of haze, including persons with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, asthma, COPD, older persons and pregnant workers.
- Encourage workers to promptly report symptoms or concerns and adjust or relocate their work where necessary.
- Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for persons at work to seek medical attention where necessary, particularly where they experience worsening symptoms or respiratory distress.



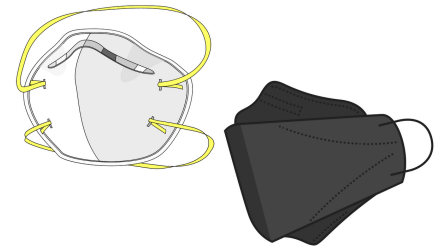
4. Maintain indoor air quality

- Keep all external doors and windows closed where appropriate to reduce the entry of haze.
- Ensure that ventilation and air-conditioning systems are maintained. Where reasonably practicable, consider the use of suitable air purifiers fitted with **High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA)** filters, to support good indoor air quality.
- Restrict or avoid activities that may unnecessarily worsen indoor air quality.
- Ensure ventilation systems are operated in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and, where practicable, minimise the introduction of unfiltered outdoor air during periods of poor air quality.



5. Provide suitable protection

- Where outdoor work cannot reasonably be avoided and the risk assessment indicates that respiratory protection is required, provide a suitable respirator, such as an N95 respirator mask or equivalent.
- Ensure that the respirator is properly fitted, suitable for the person and the work, and compatible with other PPE.
- As wearing a respirator during strenuous work may cause discomfort, adjust the work pace and provide additional rest breaks where necessary.
- Establish appropriate arrangements for the storage, maintenance and disposal of the respirators and other disposable protective equipment.



6. Communicate the risks and precautionary measures

- Ensure that supervisors and persons at work are adequately informed of, and understand the haze-related risks, the precautionary measures, including any changes to work arrangement, duties, or protective requirements.
- Provide a clear channel for persons at work to report symptoms, concerns or changing workplace conditions.



FURTHER GUIDANCE

The following references are provided to support compliance with the applicable legal duties and responsibilities:

- [Code of Practice on Workplace Safety and Health Risk Management.](#)
- [WSH Self Assessment Checklist & Template.](#)
- [Risk Management Forms and Templates.](#)
- [2023/WSHN/04: Heat Stress Precaution in the Workplace.](#)
- [2024/IGN/01: Managing Heat Stress at Workplace.](#)
- [Poster: Melindungi Pekerja daripada Tekanan Haba - Malay Version.](#)
- [Poster: Protecting Workers from Heat Stress - English Version.](#)
- [Ministry of Health Public Health Advisories Relating to Haze.](#)
- [JASTRe Air Quality Updates and PSI Information.](#)
- [WHO Guidance on Health Impacts of Air Pollution and Particulate Matter.](#)

All principals, employers, and self-employed persons are strongly reminded to review their risk assessments, monitor official advisories, and implement appropriate precautionary measures to protect persons at work during periods of haze.

For further clarification on this matter, please submit your enquiries via “General Enquiries” on the SHENA website: www.shena.gov.bn or contact the SHENA office at + **673 238 2000** / +**673 272 2000** during office hours.

SHENA appreciates the cooperation of all stakeholders in ensuring that **Brunei Darussalam is a safe place to work and live.**

END