



MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS TO DEFRAY THIRD-PARTY PROFESSIONAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTION COSTS FOR PREMISES WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

Other support measures for businesses and owners or managers of premises include waiver of certification fees for SG Clean quality mark and enhanced support under the Productivity Solutions Grant for Environmental Services industry

Singapore, 17 April 2020 – With effect from 1 April 2020, owners or managers of premises with confirmed COVID-19 cases can apply for assistance to defray part of the cleaning and disinfection costs. Under the new government assistance scheme, the National Environment Agency (NEA), Enterprise Singapore (ESG) and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) will co-fund 50 per cent of the third-party professional cleaning costs incurred by owners or managers of premises. This follows Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat's announcement on 26 March 2020 that the government will co-fund professional cleaning costs for businesses with confirmed COVID-19 cases.

2 Since March 2020, the government agencies have defrayed 100% of the certification fees for the SG Clean quality mark, and will continue to waive the certification fees for more than 32,000 premises this year, as well as continue to support their re-certification in 2021 at no cost, for premises to maintain good cleanliness and hygiene standards.

3 At the same time, eligible companies that apply for the Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG) for environmental services equipment/ solutions will receive enhanced support of up to 80 per cent of the qualifying cost of the equipment/ solution, capped at \$350,000 per company.

Assistance Scheme for Premises with Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

4 The government recognises that for premises with confirmed COVID-19 cases, hiring a third-party professional cleaning business to carry out disinfection works can be costly due to the process and chemical products used. This assistance scheme is therefore targeted at defraying these costs for owners or managers of premises across various sectors (*refer to ANNEX A for more info*).

5 **The scheme subsidises 50 per cent of cleaning and disinfection costs, capped at \$3,000, and takes effect from 1 April to 31 December 2020.** For tourism related establishments, which are generally larger than an average residential or commercial unit, a higher cap of \$20,000 applies. STB has also extended its support of professional cleaning costs beyond licensed hotels, to include other tourism-related establishments such as MICE venues, attractions, cruise terminals and corresponding venues within the Integrated Resorts.

6 Applicants should submit their claims with supporting documents for verification by their designated agency. The funds will be disbursed subject to the relevant agency's assessment of eligibility (*refer to ANNEX A for more info on the application process*).

Waiver of Certification Fees for SG Clean Quality Mark

7 Ensuring cleanliness of public spaces is a shared responsibility. The SG Clean campaign¹ was launched on 16 February 2020 to raise hygiene standards and transform the cleanliness level of our public spaces, and to rally stakeholders and members of the public to do their part to keep Singapore clean. An important component of the campaign is the SG Clean quality mark, which serves as a premises-based sanitation and hygiene indicator and reflects the premises' commitment to high standards of environmental public hygiene.

8 Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, businesses and premises managers across Singapore have stepped up cleaning and other efforts to safeguard public health. Commitment to the SG Clean quality mark has been overwhelming, with more than 9,000² premises certified SG Clean. In this aspect, ESG and STB have also been working with food and beverage (F&B), retail and tourism businesses to come on board SG Clean. The government will ramp up efforts to encourage premises to achieve SG Clean quality mark certification by 2020. **To enable this, the agencies will continue to waive the certification fees this year and next year for more than 32,000 premises.** These premises include preschools, transport nodes, community centres, religious buildings, stalls in coffeeshops and hawker centres, as well as F&B, retail and tourism businesses.

Building Up Capability of the Industry

9 As announced earlier at the budget debate on 4 March 2020, mandatory Environmental Sanitation standards³ will also be introduced later this year, and greater accountability will also be placed on premises managers for the cleanliness of their premises. NEA will work with sectoral leads to progressively implement the new requirements from 2021, starting with higher-risk premises with high footfall and immuno-vulnerable occupants. These include preschools, schools, eldercare facilities, hawker centres and coffeeshops. The new Environmental Sanitation regime will build on the SG Clean certification programme, and include requirements for pro-active routine cleaning and disinfection at specified frequencies.

10 The current COVID-19 situation is also an opportunity to transform the environmental services industry by raising the skills and productivity of this workforce. NEA launched the Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG) for the environmental services industry in September 2018, to support the adoption of commercially available and proven environmental services technologies, including equipment and digital solutions. **The funding support has been further enhanced and eligible companies can now be supported up to 80 per cent of the qualifying cost, capped at S\$350,000 per company,** from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020. The PSG is applicable to the cleaning, waste and pest management sectors (*refer to ANNEX B for more info*).

11 Collectively, the assistance scheme and waiver of certification fees for the SG Clean quality mark will help to defray costs for businesses and individuals during this challenging period. At the same time, NEA will continue to work with other partner agencies to build up capability of the industry and upskill the environmental services workforce through schemes such as the PSG, which enables environmental services companies to adopt proven technologies and solutions, as well as put in place job redesign processes, upskill their workers and improve productivity. Over time, we can uplift the overall standards of the environmental services industry by imposing mandatory cleaning standards on different types of premises, supported by strong local enterprises and a skilled workforce that is able to provide quality cleaning services to the public.

¹ For more information on the SG Clean campaign, refer to: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/media/news/news/index/sg-clean-campaign-launched-to-rally-public-and-businesses-to-work-together-to-keep-singapore-clean>.

² Figure updated as of 13 April.

³ For more information on the new Environmental Sanitation regime, refer to: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/media/news/news/index/environmental-sanitation-standards-to-be-made-mandatory-to-raise-public-hygiene-standards>

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About National Environment Agency

Formed on 1 July 2002, the National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organisation responsible for ensuring a clean and green environment, and the sustainable development of Singapore. Its key roles are to protect Singapore's resources from pollution, maintain a high level of public health and provide timely meteorological information. NEA also develops and spearheads environmental initiatives and programmes through its partnership with the People, Public and Private sectors. It is committed to motivating every individual to care for the environment as a way of life, in order to sustain a quality living environment for present and future generations.

About Enterprise Singapore

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise.

We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups, and build trust in Singapore's products and services through quality and standards.

Visit www.enterprisesg.gov.sg for more information.

About the Singapore Tourism Board

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is the lead development agency for tourism, one of Singapore's key economic sectors. Together with industry partners and the community, we shape a dynamic Singapore tourism landscape. We bring the Passion Made Possible brand to life by differentiating Singapore as a vibrant destination that inspires people to share and deepen their passions.

More: www.stb.gov.sg or www.visitsingapore.com | Follow us: facebook.com/STBSingapore or twitter.com/stb_sg

Types of premises covered by the assistance scheme to defray third-party professional cleaning and disinfection costs for premises with confirmed COVID-19 cases

Applicants can visit the respective agencies' websites to apply for the scheme:

- NEA: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/public-cleanliness/environmental-cleaning-guidelines/cleaning-assistance-scheme>
- ESG: <https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/SCP>
- STB: <https://www.stb.gov.sg/content/stb/en/assistance-and-licensing/Support-for-Cleaning-Disinfection-Costs.html>

Agency	Types of Premises	Examples (note: examples listed are non-exhaustive)
NEA	Residences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public housing (HDB), condominiums, landed homes and dormitories. • If cleaning/disinfection works are carried out by third-party cleaning companies for common areas in condominiums and Town Council areas, the scheme applies to them as well.
	Private offices and private educational institutions or shops in non-retail buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private educational institutions such as enrichment centres, childcare centres, preschools. • Commercial shops such as banks, clinics, hair salons in non-retail buildings etc.
	Food establishments in non-retail buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants, cafes, foodstalls, coffeeshop, food court, take-away shop, bakery, supermarket, mini-mart, etc.
	Religious institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church, mosque, temple
	Recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gyms, country club, bowling alley, etc.
	Community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private nursing homes/hospices, clan associations
ESG	Food establishments in retail malls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eateries, restaurants, coffee outlets, bakeries, food kiosks, etc.
	Retailers in retail malls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparel shops, bookstores, electronics stores, etc.
	Other businesses in retail malls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare, clinics, enrichment centres, hair salons, etc.
STB	Hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed hotels
	Attractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums, amusement/theme park, botanical/zoological gardens, etc.
	Integrated Resorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels, MICE venues, and attractions
	MICE Venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore EXPO, Changi Exhibition Centre, Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, etc.
	Cruise terminals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore Cruise Centre, Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore

Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG) for Environmental Services

The Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG) for the environmental services industry was launched in September 2018 to help drive widespread adoption of technology across the environmental services industry, and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises, multinational corporations, and premises owners (i.e. building / facility owners) to adopt commercially available and proven environmental services technologies, including equipment and digital solutions (i.e. ready-to-go solutions), to increase operational efficiency and productivity.

2 Since the integration of the pest management sector with the Environmental Services Industry Transformation Map (ES ITM), NEA has been working with the Singapore Pest Management Association (SPMA) to identify the types of equipment and solutions that pest management companies can tap on, to increase their operational efficiency and productivity.

3 **To date, we have approved 602 applications and about S\$8.5 million of the PSG has been committed.** Of all the applications received so far, 50 per cent are from the cleaning sector, 13 per cent from the waste management sector, and 37 per cent by owners of premises, tenants and Management Corporation Strata Titles (MCST). NEA has also received another 357 applications with a potential grant commitment of S\$8.0 million, signaling a demand by companies in the environmental services industry to adopt ready-to-go solutions to increase operational efficiency and productivity, as well as to create new jobs and upskill the workforce.

4 NEA also continuously reviews the ⁴list of supportable equipment and solutions to ensure that the ES industry continues to adopt relevant environmental services solutions to enhance their productivity and provide better services. Since the launch of the PSG, the list of supportable equipment and solutions has expanded from **10 to 43**, which now includes a plastic recycling system and a range of robotic and non-robotic sweepers and scrubbers for indoor and outdoor use as well as a rodent monitoring system.

⁴ For a list of the supportable equipment and digital solutions under PSG for the ES industry, visit <https://www.smeportal.sg/content/tech-depot/en/psg.html>.