

It's jail, fine for not reporting worksite accident

New Workplace Safety and Health Act comes into effect today

By ARLINA ARSHAD

FROM today, employers, factory managers and doctors who fail to report worksite accidents to the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) can be jailed and fined.

The new Workplace Safety and Health Act, passed in Parliament on Jan 17, replaces the Factories Act and kicks off today.

Companies responsible for accidents can be fined up to \$500,000, and individuals fined up to \$200,000, or jailed up to two years or both.

All workplaces must now report work-related accidents and diseases resulting in death and injury to members of the public and self-employed persons to MOM.

Those who fail to do so can be fined up to \$5,000 for the first offence, and up to \$10,000 or jailed up to six months for the second and subsequent offences, or both.

Those who knowingly make false claims can be fined up to \$5,000 or jailed up to six months, or both.

They can report online at <http://www.mom.gov.sg/Report>, or download forms from <http://www.mom.gov.sg/oshd>.

From September, employers, contractors and sub-contractors must also conduct risk assessments to identify workplace safety and health risks and take steps to reduce the risks.

As part of the Occupational Safety and Health Framework announced by Man-

power Minister Ng Eng Hen in March last year, the Act covers general factories, construction sites and shipyards, numbering about 17,000 workplaces.

It seeks to halve the workplace fatality rate. There were 44 fatal workplace accidents last year. About five in every 100,000 workers here are killed on the job each year, compared with the fewer than two in 100,000 in countries such as Sweden and Britain.

Mr Simon Lee, executive director of Singapore Contractors Association (SCA), said the new law is fairer than the Factories Act as it ensures that all stakeholders in the industry are responsible for ensuring safe work practices.

However, SCA is concerned that "heavier penalties would hurt companies and affect their financial viability". Contractors, he added, are concerned about how to fulfil the new requirements, such as carrying out risk assessment.

"SCA has been and will continue to provide information to contractors, via newsletters, circulars and possibly seminars in the future," he said.

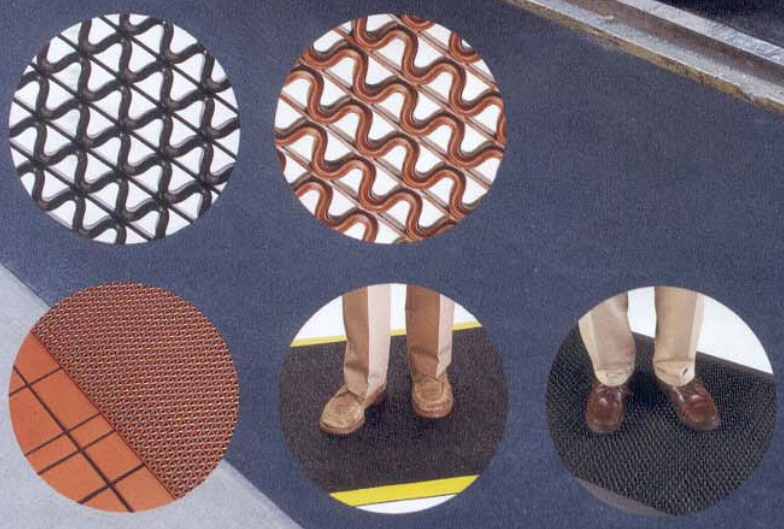
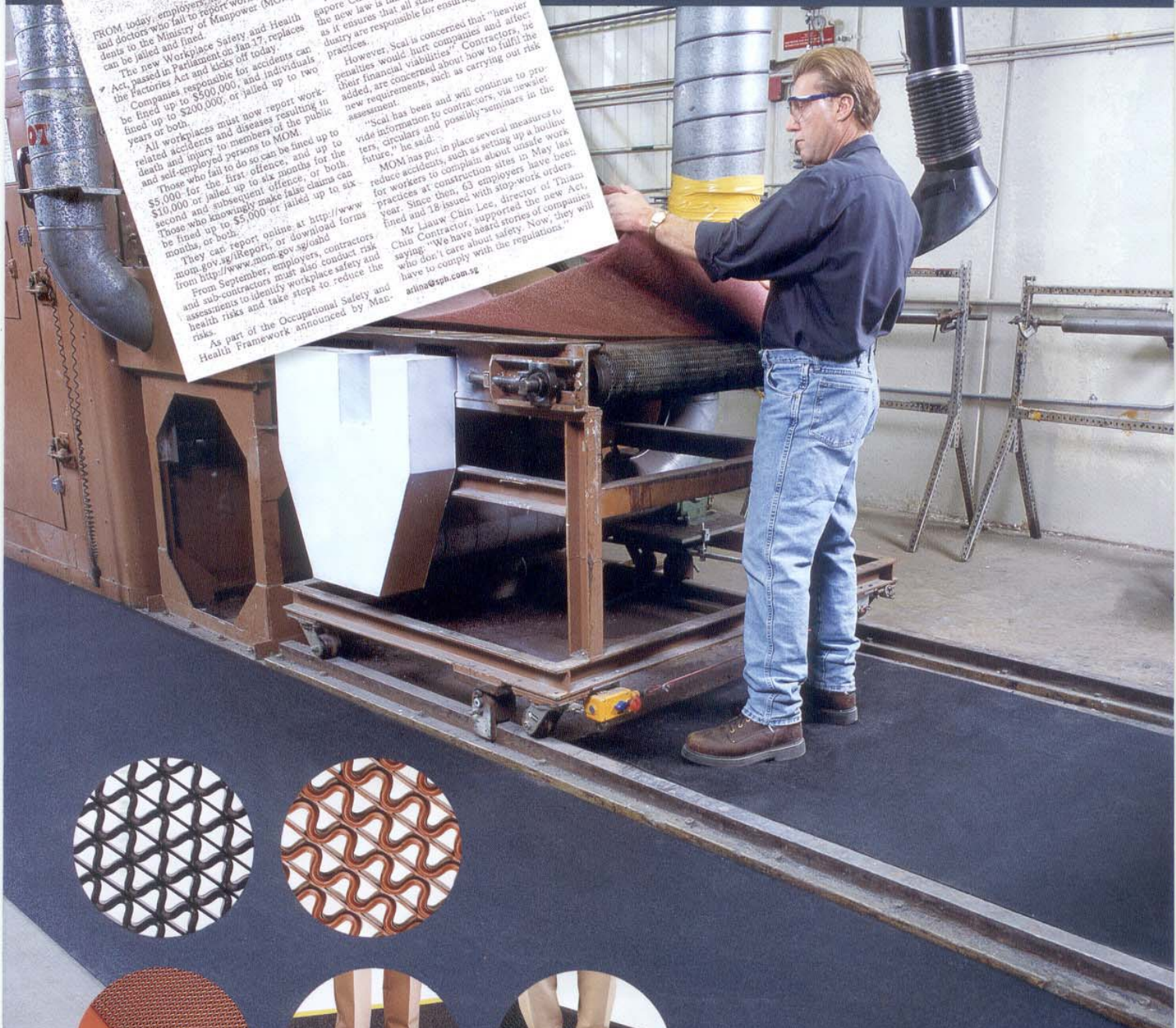
MOM has put in place several measures to reduce accidents, such as setting up a hotline for workers at construction sites in May last year. Since then, 63 employers have been fined and 18 issued with stop-work orders.

Mr Liaw Chin Lee, director of Thiam Chin Contractor, supported the new Act, saying: "We have heard stories of companies who don't care about safety. Now, they will have to comply with the regulations."

arlina@spn.com.sg

In Y2005, there are 15,533 cases of accidents reported to MOM for workmen's compensation and this costs businesses a hefty \$68.52 million.

Source: Ministry of Manpower, 2006



3M™ Safety-Walk™ Fatigue and Slip Resistant Mat

3M™ Fatigue and Slip Resistant Mat improves safety and comfort

- Reduced fatigue and discomfort helps improve worker productivity
- Improved slip resistance helps reduce accidental slips and falls
- Reduced impact on dropped items means less damage to tools and products

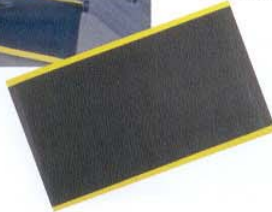


PSB Certified Class 1
Federal Standard 209E
Classification.



5270

- Continuous coiled-vinyl design helps provide cushioned support evenly distributed across the bottom of the shoe, reducing leg and back fatigue
- Textured, solid top helps improve traction and allows debris and liquid to stay on top of the mat for easy cleanup
- Helps reduce noise, improving the working environment
- Withstands most industrial and cleaning chemicals
 - Antimicrobial ingredients resist fungal growth in the mat
 - Lightweight for easy moving and repositioning
 - Cleans quickly by shaking, or washing with a hose or power washer



5100

- Z-web surface helps improve traction and helps provide cushioned support, reducing leg and back fatigue
- Open construction lets liquids and small particles pass through, providing a safer, drier surface while “trapping” debris in the mat until you’re ready to clean it up
- Withstands most industrial and cleaning chemicals
 - Special grease - and oil-resistant coating helps mat perform under many situations; added antimicrobial ingredients resist fungal growth in the mat
 - Cleans quickly by shaking, or washing with a hose or power washer



5250

- Continuous coiled-vinyl design helps provide cushioned support evenly distributed across the bottom of the shoe, reducing leg and back fatigue
- Open construction lets liquids pass through, providing a safer, drier surface while “trapping” debris in the mat until you’re ready to clean it up
- Vinyl coils help improve traction and slip resistance
- Withstands most industrial and cleaning chemicals
 - Special grease - and oil-resistant coating helps mat perform under messy situations; added antimicrobial ingredients resist fungal growth in the mat
 - Lightweight for easy moving and repositioning
 - Cleans quickly by shaking, or washing with a hose or power washer





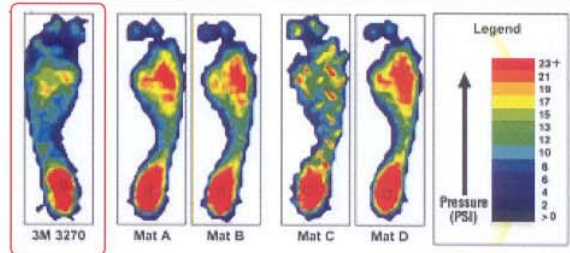
3270

- Continuous coiled-vinyl design helps provide cushioned support evenly distributed across the bottom of the shoe, reducing leg and back fatigue
- Textured, solid top helps improve traction and allows debris and liquid to stay on top of the mat for easy cleanup
- Coils are permanently fused to the top surface and will not delaminate or separate when wet like foam mats
- Helps reduce noise, improving the working environment
- Antimicrobial coating provides resistance to mildew, fungus and odors in the mat
- Lightweight for easy moving and repositioning
- Cleans quickly by shaking, or washing with a hose or power washer

Where 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Cushion Matting 3270 stands vs. the competition*

Safety-Walk™ Cushion Matting 3270 has fewer hot spots of high pressure (indicated by red and orange) than the competition. That means more comfort and less fatigue.

*Source: 3M Studies, 2002



3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip Resistant Tapes



- For light to heavy shoe-traffic areas
- Mineral-coated slip-resistant surface
- Pressure-sensitive adhesive holds easily and securely
- Peel-and-stick easy installation

Where to install: For use to reduce slips and falls in greasy and oily areas, ramps, steps, stairs, ladders, entrances and anywhere where additional traction is

needed. Ideal for heavy-traffic work areas, heavy equipment, construction machinery and vehicles.



3M™ Safety-Walk™ Lite Slip Resistant Tapes



How it works:

It is a system of mineral-coated polyester surface laminated with photoluminescent strips, coated with a rubber based adhesive and covered with a removable protective liner. It absorbs light and can provide visibility up to 6 hours in dark or poor light conditions. Enhanced with anti-slip characteristics, it provides illumination of exit paths and increased safety in the event of power or other illumination sources outage.

- Photoluminescent strips glow in the dark, up to 6 hours (meets DIN67510 requirements)
- Slip-resistant surface
- Strong and durable, chemicals resistant