



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

PORT MARINE CIRCULAR  
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20 April 2026

Shipping Community  
Harbour Craft Community

**JOINT ADVISORY: COMPLIANCE WITH THE HARBOUR CRAFT REGULATIONS  
AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN MANPOWER ACT**

This circular brings to the attention of the shipping and harbour craft communities a joint advisory on compliance with the Harbour Craft Regulations and employment of foreign manpower matters, as attached in **APPENDIX A**.

2. The joint advisory is issued by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA).
3. For queries related to the joint advisory, please contact the following:
  - a) Harbour Craft Regulations – MPA online feedback link at <https://www.mpa.gov.sg/feedback>
  - b) Employment of Foreign Manpower Matters – MOM's online feedback form at <https://www.mom.gov.sg/contact-us>
  - c) Landing Pass Matters – ICA online vessel and crew matters link at <https://go.gov.sg/vesselandcrewmatters>
4. Thank you.

CHUA YENG HIAN  
DIRECTOR (MARINE SERVICES)  
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE



20 APRIL 2026

Harbour Craft Community

## **JOINT ADVISORY: COMPLIANCE WITH THE HARBOUR CRAFT REGULATIONS AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN MANPOWER ACT**

We would like to remind the harbour craft community to comply with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (Harbour Craft) Regulations (“**the MPA Harbour Craft Regulations**”) and the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act (“**the EFMA**”).

### **Penalties for crew manning related offences under the MPA Harbour Craft Regulations**

2. Employers must ensure that their vessels are manned by crew holding valid Port Limit Manning Licences, as required under the Fourth Schedule of the MPA Harbour Craft Regulations. To obtain Port Limit Manning Licences for foreign employees, employers must first ensure these individuals hold valid work passes issued by the Ministry of Manpower (“**MOM**”).
3. Employers are reminded that the failure to comply with the MPA Harbour Craft Regulations will render them liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of up to \$1,000 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

### **Penalties for illegal employment offences under the EFMA**

4. Employers must ensure that all foreign employees, whether or not certified under the MPA Harbour Craft Regulations, hold valid work passes as required under Section 5 of the EFMA before they can work in Singapore waters or perform any shore-based work as a crew member of a harbour craft in Singapore.
5. Failure to comply with the EFMA will render employers liable, on conviction, to a fine of at least \$5,000 and not more than \$30,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to both for their first conviction. Employers who commit an offence under the EFMA may have their existing work pass privileges suspended.

### **Landing pass policy**

6. To enter and remain in Singapore, a foreigner is issued a landing pass by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA):
  - (i) as a member of the crew of a vessel which has arrived in Singapore; or
  - (ii) as a member of the crew of a vessel which is due to arrive in Singapore

for the duration stated on the landing pass. In the event of illegal employment, the landing pass issued to a foreigner may be cancelled, and the security furnished in respect thereof may be forfeited.

7. The authorities take a serious view of criminal activities and will not hesitate to take firm action against errant employers that compromise Singapore's maritime safety and reputation, and undermine fair competition for those who abide by the rules.

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