

Employment Agencies Rules 2011

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No. S 172

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ACT (CHAPTER 92)

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES RULES 2011

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Employment Agencies Act, the Minister for Manpower hereby makes the following Rules:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Rules may be cited as the Employment Agencies Rules 2011 and shall, with the exception of rules 3(4), 14, 15 and 16, come into operation on 1st April 2011.

(2) Rules 3(4), 14, 15 and 16 shall come into operation on 1st July 2011.

Definitions

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —



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[ref 31/12/2021\]](#)

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“salary” —

- (a) in relation to an employee, means the basic salary and fixed allowances payable each month by the employer to the employee; and
- (b) in the case of an employee who is a foreign employee, means the salary of the foreign employee as declared in the application for a work pass for the foreign employee submitted to the Controller of Work Passes appointed under section 3 of the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act 1990;

[\[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021\]](#)

“working day” means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday.

Prescribed fees, etc.

3.—(1) For the purposes of section 7(1) of the Act, the prescribed application fee for the grant or renewal of a licence shall be \$400.

(2) For the purposes of section 7(3) of the Act, the prescribed fee for the grant or renewal of a licence shall be \$100.

[\[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021\]](#)

(3) For the purposes of section 9(3) of the Act —

- (a) the prescribed period for the late renewal of a licence shall be 30 calendar days; and
- (b) the prescribed late renewal fee for the renewal of a licence within the prescribed period after the expiry of the licence shall be \$100.

[\[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021\]](#)

(4) For the purposes of section 12(2) of the Act, the prescribed registration fee for the registration of any employment agency personnel shall be \$160.

[\[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021\]](#)

(5) The Commissioner may, in his discretion, refund or waive in whole or in part any fee prescribed in this rule.

Enquiries

4.—(1) The Commissioner may make such enquiries as he thinks fit before or after granting or renewing a licence.

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5.—(1) The Commissioner may, before granting or renewing a licence, require the applicant to give a security deposit not exceeding \$60,000 in such form as the Commissioner may allow.

(2) The Commissioner may in his discretion, from time to time during the validity period of a licence and on the basis of the profile of the licensee as assessed by the Commissioner —

- (a) require the licensee to add to the amount of the security deposit to be given (which in any case shall not exceed in total \$60,000) within such time as the Commissioner may specify; or
- (b) reduce the amount of security deposit given or required to be given by the licensee with effect from such date as the Commissioner may specify.

(3) Every licensee who has been required by the Commissioner to add to the amount of security deposit to be given under paragraph (2)(a) shall comply with the requirement within such time as the Commissioner may specify.

Training

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Commissioner shall not grant or renew a licence unless —

- (a) the applicant; and
- (b) where the licence is for the carrying on of an employment agency, all the key appointment holders of the employment agency,

have attended and successfully completed such courses of training and passed such tests of proficiency as the Commissioner may determine.

(2) The Commissioner may, in any particular case if he thinks fit, grant or renew a licence notwithstanding that the applicant and, where applicable, all the key appointment holders of the employment agency have not satisfied the requirements specified in paragraph (1).

(3) Every holder of a licence referred to in section 6(1) of the Act shall ensure that every key appointment holder of the employment agency has attended and successfully completed such courses of training and passed such tests of proficiency as the Commissioner may determine and within such time as the Commissioner may specify.

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5. A separate licence under section 6(1) of the Act shall be taken out for each employment agency.

Restriction on licensee

9. A licence granted under the Act shall not —

- (a) be used directly or indirectly by any person other than the one in whose favour it was granted; or
- (b) be transferred or assigned to any other person.

Foreign recruitment

10.—(1) No employment agency personnel shall cause, induce or assist a foreign employee to enter Singapore for the purpose of seeking employment unless the employer has obtained in respect of that foreign employee the approval in principle of the Controller of Work Passes.

(2) A licensee or an employment agency personnel shall, upon obtaining employment for a foreign employee, ensure that the passport or other documents of identity of the foreign employee is delivered or returned directly to that foreign employee as soon as practicable, unless the licensee or employment agency personnel has a reasonable excuse not to do so.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), the licensee or employment agency personnel shall not be taken to have a reasonable excuse for failing to deliver or return the passport or other documents of identity of a foreign employee if that failure is by reason only of the licensee or employment agency personnel not being in possession of the passport or other documents of identity due to the licensee or employment agency personnel having transferred or otherwise given possession of the passport or other documents of identity, as the case may be, to another licensee, employment agency personnel or employment agency, whether located in Singapore or elsewhere.

Change of place of business

11. Every holder of a licence referred to in section 6(1) of the Act shall inform the Commissioner, using the electronic application service provided by the Commissioner at <https://licences.business.gov.sg>, of the address of every place of business, including every branch thereof, within 7 working days after commencing business at such place.

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- (a) where the applicant for employment is a foreign employee, one month's salary for each year of —
- (i) the period of validity of the foreign employee's work pass; or
 - (ii) the period of the contract of employment,
- whichever is the shorter, to be pro-rated according to the total relevant period, subject to a maximum of 2 months' salary of the employee;
- (b) where the applicant for employment is not a foreign employee, one month's salary for each year of the period of the contract of employment, to be pro-rated according to the total period of the contract of employment, subject to a maximum of 2 months' salary of the employee; or
- (c) in any case where sub-paragraph (a) or (b) is inapplicable, 2 months' salary of the employee.

[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021]

(2) The reference to fees in paragraph (1) shall not include a reference to any fee charged or received by a licensee in respect of costs incurred by or on behalf of an applicant for employment outside Singapore.

(3) For the purposes of section 15 of the Act, a licensee may charge and receive any form of fees, remuneration, profit or compensation from any applicant for workers or any employer.

[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021]

(4) The licensee shall, as soon as practicable after receiving any fee, whether directly or indirectly, from an applicant for employment, issue a written receipt for the fee accompanied by an itemised list of components of the fee to the applicant for employment.

(5) Every licensee shall exhibit, in a conspicuous place —

- (a) in every place of business of the employment agency, including every branch thereof; or
- (b) in every premises where the work or activity referred to in section 6(2) of the Act is being performed,

as the case may be, a copy of the scale of fees that the licensee charges.



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- (b) terminates the employment of that applicant for employment within 6 months of commencement of employment, other than for the reason that —
- (i) the work specified in the contract of employment is completed;
 - (ii) the period of time for which the contract was made has expired; or
 - (iii) the applicant for employment requested for the termination of his employment.

(2) A licensee need not refund any fee received from an applicant for employment if the applicant for employment absconds.

(3) Every licensee who is required to make a refund to an applicant for employment under this rule shall do so within 7 working days of the termination of the employment of that applicant for employment or before the applicant for employment (being a foreign employee) is repatriated, whichever is the earlier.

[\[S 442/2022 wef 01/06/2022\]](#)

Refund of fees to employers of foreign domestic workers

13A.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a licensee must refund at least 50% of the relevant service fees if the employment of a foreign domestic worker (called in this rule the employee), who was placed with an employer by the licensee through a placement service, is terminated within 6 months of commencement of the employment, whether by the employer or the employee.

(2) A licensee need not make a refund to an employer under paragraph (1) if any of the following circumstances have occurred:

- (a) the employer —
 - (i) contravened, in relation to the employee's employment with the employer, the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act 1990, any subsidiary legislation made under that Act or any condition or regulatory condition under that Act; or



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- (i) cancelled the employee's work pass, repatriated the employee or transferred the employee to another employer; and
- (ii) did not, within a reasonable time before the cancellation of the employee's work pass or the repatriation or transfer of the employee (as the case may be), notify the licensee that the employer intends to do so;

(d) the employer opted to employ a replacement employee placed by the licensee, and the employer or licensee (as the case may be) obtained in-principle approval of the application for the replacement employee's work pass.

(3) Where a refund is sought under paragraph (1) in respect of the termination of employment of an employee who is a replacement employee, the licensee need only refund the relevant service fees under that paragraph if the replacement employee is a first replacement employee or a second replacement employee.

(4) Where a refund is sought under paragraph (1) in respect of the termination of employment of an employee who is a first replacement employee, "relevant service fees" in this rule includes the relevant service fees that, but for paragraph (2)(d), would have been refundable under paragraph (1) in relation to the termination of the replaced employee.

(5) Where a refund is sought under paragraph (1) in respect of the termination of employment of an employee who is a second replacement employee, "relevant service fees" in this rule includes the relevant service fees that, but for paragraph (2)(d), would have been refundable under paragraph (1) in relation to the termination of the replaced employee and the first replacement employee.

(6) Where —

- (a) an employer makes a written request to a licensee for a refund under this rule; and
- (b) the licensee is required under this rule to make the refund,

the licensee must do so within 14 working days after —

- (c) the employer's written request for the refund — if the employee's work pass was cancelled before the written request is made; or

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“placement service” means a service provided by the licensee to the employer, where the licensee places in the employment of the employer an employee selected by the employer —

- (a) from a recommendation or shortlist provided by the licensee;
- (b) from information or a database relating to prospective employees provided by the licensee; or
- (c) with the assistance of the licensee to assess the suitability of the prospective employee, through an interview process or any other means arranged by the licensee;

“relevant service fees” —

- (a) means all fees paid by the employer to the licensee in relation to any contract entered into between the employer and the licensee on or after 1 June 2022, for the placement of the employee with the employer; but
- (b) does not include —
 - (i) any fee required to be paid by the employer to the Government or any public agency for the employment of the employee;
 - (ii) any costs incurred by the employer to fulfil the requirements for the employee’s entry into Singapore, including the cost of the employee’s one-way travel ticket into Singapore, if applicable;
 - (iii) any costs incurred by the employer to fulfil the requirements of the employee’s country;
 - (iv) any loan extended by the employer to the employee to pay any fee payable by the employee to the licensee for placing the employee with an employer; and
 - (v) any fee charged by a third-party provider for training the employee that is conducted at the employer’s option;

“specified event” means an event where —

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(b) the employee's services are no longer required due to —

- (i) the demise of all or any of the identified persons; or
- (ii) the relocation of all or any of the identified persons from that residential address.

(2) In rule 13A, an employee is —

(a) a replacement employee if the employee is placed with an employer —

- (i) as a replacement for another employee (called in this paragraph the replaced employee) whose employment with the employer was terminated within 6 months of commencement of employment; and

(ii) by the same licensee who placed the replaced employee with the employer;

(b) a first replacement employee if the employee is a replacement employee and the replaced employee is not a replacement employee; and

(c) a second replacement employee if the employee is a replacement employee and the replaced employee is a first replacement employee.

[\[S 442/2022 wef 01/06/2022\]](#)

Dispute resolution mechanism

14. Every licensee shall, before the licensee is engaged by an applicant for employment or an applicant for workers (referred to in this rule as the applicant) to provide any service, disclose to the applicant the dispute resolution mechanism that the licensee has established for any dispute that may arise between the licensee and the applicant.

De-registration of employment agency personnel

15. For the purposes of section 12(8) of the Act, the time within which a licensee shall apply to the Commissioner, using such form as the Commissioner may require, to de-register any employment agency personnel shall be 3 working days after the employment agency personnel —

(a) has ceased to be engaged by the licensee; or



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[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021]

Registration card

16.—(1) For the purposes of section 13(1) of the Act, the registration card to be issued by the licensee concerned upon the successful registration of an employment agency personnel under section 12 of the Act shall be in accordance with the form and specifications set out in the Schedule.

[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021]

(2) Every registered employment agency personnel shall show his registration card to any prospective or new client who is an applicant for employment or an applicant for workers, and allow the person to record any information from the registration card.

Offence for persons to engage unlicensed persons

17. For the purposes of section 30 of the Act, a defendant shall not be deemed to have exercised due diligence unless he had verified that the person referred to in section 30(2) of the Act has obtained a licence as required under section 6 of the Act by checking the register of licensees and employment agency personnel at the Ministry of Manpower's Internet website at www.mom.gov.sg/eadirectory.

[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021]

Offence for licensed employment agencies to make certain applications

18. For the purposes of section 31 of the Act, a defendant shall not be deemed to have exercised due diligence unless he had verified that the person referred to in section 31(3) of the Act has obtained a licence as required under section 6 of the Act by checking the register of licensees and employment agency personnel at the Ministry of Manpower's Internet website at www.mom.gov.sg/eadirectory.

[S 868/2022 wef 31/12/2021]

Penalties

19.—(1) Any person who contravenes rule 9, 11, 12(4) or (5) or 14 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.



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20. The Employment Agency Rules (R 1) are revoked.

Made this 30th day of March 2011.

LOH KHUM YEAN
*Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Manpower,
Singapore.*

[HQ/PlnPol/FMM/EA/EAA/LegsChanges/SubLegs; AG/LLRD/SL/92/2010/1 Vol. 1]

(To be presented to Parliament under section 29(2) of the Employment Agencies Act).

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