

Your Ref :
Our Ref : LD/P/22/04 v6



LICENSING DIVISION
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE
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Date: 25 Jan 2006

Dear Sir / Madam

IMPENDING CHANGES TO THE MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSING REGIME

In 2004, Police accepted the recommendations of the Advisory Panel for Licensing (APL) on the spa and massage industry. Police agreed with the main thrust of APL's observation that some of the existing rules governing the licensing of spas and massage establishments can be updated to facilitate the growth of legitimate business.

National Skills Recognition System (NSRS)

2 Police communicated then that we will be working with the Workforce Development Agency to develop new skills standards under the NSRS. The NSRS is a national framework for establishing work performance standards, identifying job competencies and certifying skills acquisition. Police have decided that the following skills standards packages can be adopted with effect from **1 Feb 2006** as an additional means of qualification/certification for employees working in the massage establishments:

- i. NSRS – Skills Standards Package 1
 - Provide full-body massage with oil
 - Provide full-body massage without oil
 - Perform manicure/ pedicure
 - Perform face treatment
- ii. NSRS – Skills Standards Package 2
 - Perform manicure/ pedicure
 - Perform face treatment
 - Provide full body-massage without oil
 - Perform Swedish massage

3 In other words, if an employee has undergone all four skills standards courses in either one of the above packages, he or she will be deemed as a 'qualified' masseur/masseuse for the purpose of Category I certification. Massage establishments will then be able to use these employees to meet the currently imposed criteria of having 50% qualified masseurs/therapists in a massage establishment before it can be considered as a Category I ME. Details of the skills standards packages can be obtained at the <http://app.wda.gov.sg/nsrs/training.asp> (click on reflexology-related services).

4 You may refer to the attached annex for an updated list of professional qualifications recognised by Police for the purpose of Category I certification.

Mandatory Medical Health Screening

5 Police had also agreed with another APL's recommendation to impose a mandatory medical health screening requirement on all employees who are currently working or who will be applying to work as a masseur, therapist or reflexologist in the massage industry. This is regardless of the category classification of the massage establishment which the masseur, therapist or reflexologist is employed with. For these posts, employees will be required to undergo and pass the medical health screening before they can be allowed to work. In addition, these employees will also be subjected to a yearly renewal process i.e. they will need to pass the medical screening every year before they can continue to work in the massage establishment. Details of this mandatory medical screening will be made known to the massage industry once details are finalized. In the meantime, you may wish to ensure that details of your employees are kept updated as the medical health screening will also be mandatory for existing employees.

Other changes

6 Police will also be charging a nominal fee for the processing of application for approval to employ any person to work in a massage establishment. The processing fee will be payable at the point of application, regardless of whether the application is subsequently approved. The exact amount of the processing fee and the effective date will be made known soon.

7 Meanwhile, we would like to inform you of the various online modes available for the payments of the processing fee. Massage establishments can choose to effect payments via any of the following ways:

(a) **Credit Card (Visa or Mastercard)**

You can use either VISA or Master credit card to effect payment by keying in your credit card details.

(b) **Direct Debit through internet banking account**

You can pay via direct debit from your bank account. To use this payment mode, you must have an internet banking account with any the 3 participating banks – Citibank, UOB or DBS. If you select this payment mode, you will be routed to a secure webpage maintained by the bank in question. Once your authentication has been confirmed, the bank will debit the correct amount from your account directly.

(c) **FlexiPay**

FlexiPay is an Internet e-payment service that allows you (either as an individual or a business) to make online payments by means of a Direct Debit Authorisation (DDA). The DDA form contains instructions to the participating banks to automatically debit your specified bank account when you authorise any payment online. Please note that the processing of a DDA application form requires 21 working days. You are therefore advised to apply early if you intend to use this mode of payment. Attached are the DDA forms for individual and corporate applications. Please fill up Part 1 of the relevant form and submit it to FlexiPay Central Collection Agency, Robinson Road Post Office, PO Box 094, Singapore 900144. For more information on FlexiPay and the list of participating banks, please visit the eCitizen website at <http://www.ecitizen.gov.sg/flexipay>.

8 As option 7(b) and 7(c) require prior arrangements with the bank concerned, **please be advised to apply early to the bank of your choice should you decide to use one of these 2 options.**

9 If you have any query on this matter, please contact DSP Anwar Ali at 6557 5803 or Ms Umadevie at 6557 5827.

Yours faithfully

**EVON NG
ASST. DIRECTOR OPERATIONS (LICENSING)
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE**

Updated list of Professional Qualifications for the purpose of Cat I Certification

1. CIBTAC – Aesthetic Diploma for Face
2. CIBTAC – Body Massage Diploma **and** Anatomy & Physiology Diploma
3. CIBTAC – Spa Therapy Diploma
4. CIDESCO – International Beauty Diploma
5. ITEC – Aesthéticienne Diploma (Facial Therapy)
6. ITEC – Diploma in Anatomy and Physiology and Massage
7. NITEC – NITEC in Spa and Aesthetic Therapy
8. NSRS – Skills Standards Package 1
 - i. Provide full-body massage with oil
 - ii. Provide full-body massage without oil
 - iii. Perform manicure/ pedicure
 - iv. Perform face treatment
9. NSRS – Skills Standards Package 2
 - i. Perform manicure/ pedicure
 - ii. Perform face treatment
 - iii. Provide full body-massage without oil
 - iv. Perform Swedish massage