

## In Case of Very Hot Weather Warning, High Humidity or High UV Level

- ◆ Are the workplaces sheltered or shaded so far as reasonably practicable ?
- ◆ Are administrative control measures (e.g. rescheduling outdoor cleansing work to cooler periods during daytime, and arranging job rotation or suitable rest breaks) taken, where reasonably practicable, to avoid prolonged working in a hot environment?
- ◆ Is cool drinking water provided and readily accessible to workers?
- ◆ Are workers reminded to take plenty of water and stay alert of their own physical conditions?

## Resting Area

- ◆ Is a sheltered area available for the workers to take rest as needed?
- ◆ Are fans or blowers provided, if reasonably practicable, at the resting area to increase air movement?

## Provision of Drinking Water

- ◆ Is sufficient potable drinking water provided to the workers or at locations within close proximity to the workers?

## Working in a Remote Area

- ◆ For workers working alone in a remote area, are effective means of communication or other suitable measures provided to facilitate call for assistance in case of emergency?

## Clothing

- ◆ Are workers provided with wide-brimmed hats, as appropriate, to block out the sunlight?
- ◆ Do the workers wear thin and air permeable clothing?
- ◆ Are the reflective vests worn by the workers air permeable and fitting their body-build?
- ◆ Are adequate precautions (e.g. providing cooling vests) adopted when workers have to wear air impermeable coveralls and respirators while at work (e.g. fogging insecticide) on a hot day?

## Acclimatization

- ◆ Are the workers acclimatized to the hot work environment?
- ◆ For workers new to a hot work environment, is a lower workload or shorter working duration arranged for them as a start, with the workload increased gradually over a number of days to help them acclimatize to the hot environment?

# Checklist for Heat Stress Assessment at Outdoor Cleansing Workplaces



Cleansing workers generally have a higher risk of heat stroke in summer due to extensive manual work in an outdoor environment, whether or not directly under the sun. In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Cap. 509), employers must, so far as reasonably practicable, ensure the safety and health of their employees at work. Such duty includes the provision and maintenance of systems of work that are, so far as reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health. Cleansing contractors / employers should, therefore, provide and maintain safe systems of work to adequately protect their employees from the risk of heat stroke. Cleansing contractors/ employers should arrange for a suitable assessment of the risk of heat stroke to their workers performing cleansing duties outdoor and, based on the assessment results, take out effective preventive measures.

To assist cleansing contractors / employers in assessing the risk of heat stroke at outdoor cleansing workplaces, the Labour Department has produced this checklist, setting out a number of relevant factors that should be

taken into account in the assessment. **The list of factors merely serves as a reference and should not be construed as exhaustive.** In using the checklist, cleansing contractors / employers should, therefore, also consider other factors that are relevant to the particular circumstances of their workplaces. Cleansing contractors/employers may appoint a person who is familiar with the work process and has basic occupational safety and health knowledge about heat stress to conduct the risk assessment. After the assessment, the assessor should, based on the findings, draw a conclusion and recommend necessary measures to prevent the risk of heat stroke. Cleansing contractors / employers / assessors are strongly recommended to read this checklist in conjunction with another publication produced by the Labour Department, entitled "Risk Assessment for the Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work", which provides guidance on how to use a checklist to assess the risk of heat stress at a workplace in general and what preventive measures could be taken against heat stress effectively.

## Factors to be considered in heat stress assessment at outdoor cleansing workplaces:

### Workload

- ◆ Are suitable and sufficient cleansing tools provided to minimize the physical exertion in the cleansing work?
- ◆ Are suitable and sufficient trolleys provided to minimize the physical demand in transporting waste materials and work equipment?
- ◆ Are the trolley wheels properly maintained to allow easy movement of the trolleys?
- ◆ For handling a large amount of heavy materials like construction waste, is sufficient manpower or powered machinery provided?
- ◆ Is the work organized in such a way to minimize the intensity and pace of bodily movement of workers so far as reasonably practicable?
- ◆ Are suitable rest breaks (or job rotation) arranged for workers?