

Client Update: Singapore

2023 JANUARY

Sustainability

Bill Moves Towards Advancing Singapore's Goals for Zero Waste and Creating a Cleaner Singapore

On 9 January 2023, the Environmental Public Health (Amendment) Act 2023 ("**Bill**") was introduced in Parliament. The Bill was passed by Parliament on 6 February 2023.

The Bill seeks to enhance the delivery of waste disposal services by:

- (a) **Extending the Progressive Wage Model to Singaporeans and Permanent Residents working in the waste management sector.** The Bill gives legislative effect to the recommendations by the Tripartite Cluster for Waste Management Industry dated 24 January 2022, to introduce the Progressive Wage Model for the waste management sector. The Progressive Wage Model will apply to the waste collection and materials recovery sectors. The changes will come into effect from 1 July 2023 and the wage schedule is expected to stretch to 30 June 2029.
- (b) **Creating a new licensing regime for cleaning business.** The revised cleaning business licensing framework is proposed to take effect from 1 January 2024. The current cleaning business licensing regime and the voluntary Enhanced Clean Mark Accreditation Scheme will be merged into a single framework. There will now be three classes of licence (class 3 licence, class 2 licence and class 1 licence) each with a two-year validity. The revised cleaning licence framework differentiates cleaning businesses based on their capabilities.
 - The class 3 licence is non-renewable and only available to new business and those licenced under the current regime as of 31 December 2023. It retains the same requirements as the current licensing regime. Upon the expiry of the class 3 licence the cleaning business must apply for a class 1 or 2 licence.
 - Class 1 and class 2 licences are renewable; however, renewal will only be granted if the cleaning business continues to fulfil wage requirements and ensure workplace safety. Class 1 licences are the highest tier of licence and aimed at firms with higher capabilities, paid-up capital of S\$250,000, free of convictions in the 24 months preceding their application and higher skilled employees. Both classes require the cleaning business to be bizSAFE certified.

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The Bill also seeks to ensure stricter controls on littering by:

- (a) **Creating a presumption in relation to high-rise littering** - where littering occurs in a public place and the source of that littering is from a residential flat, it shall be presumed that littering from the residential flat was by the tenant(s) (where the property is leased) or the owner(s) of the residential flat; and
- (b) **Penalising a person for littering** from a vehicle or permitting a vehicle to be used for the purpose of littering in a public place.

Click on the following links for more information:

- [Environmental Public Health \(Amendment\) Act 2023](https://www.parliament.gov.sg) (available on the Singapore Parliament website at www.parliament.gov.sg)
- [National Environment Agency \("NEA"\) Media Release titled "General Cleaning Business Licensing Will Be Enhanced To Build A Resilient And Professional Cleaning Sector"](https://www.nea.gov.sg) (available on NEA website at www.nea.gov.sg)

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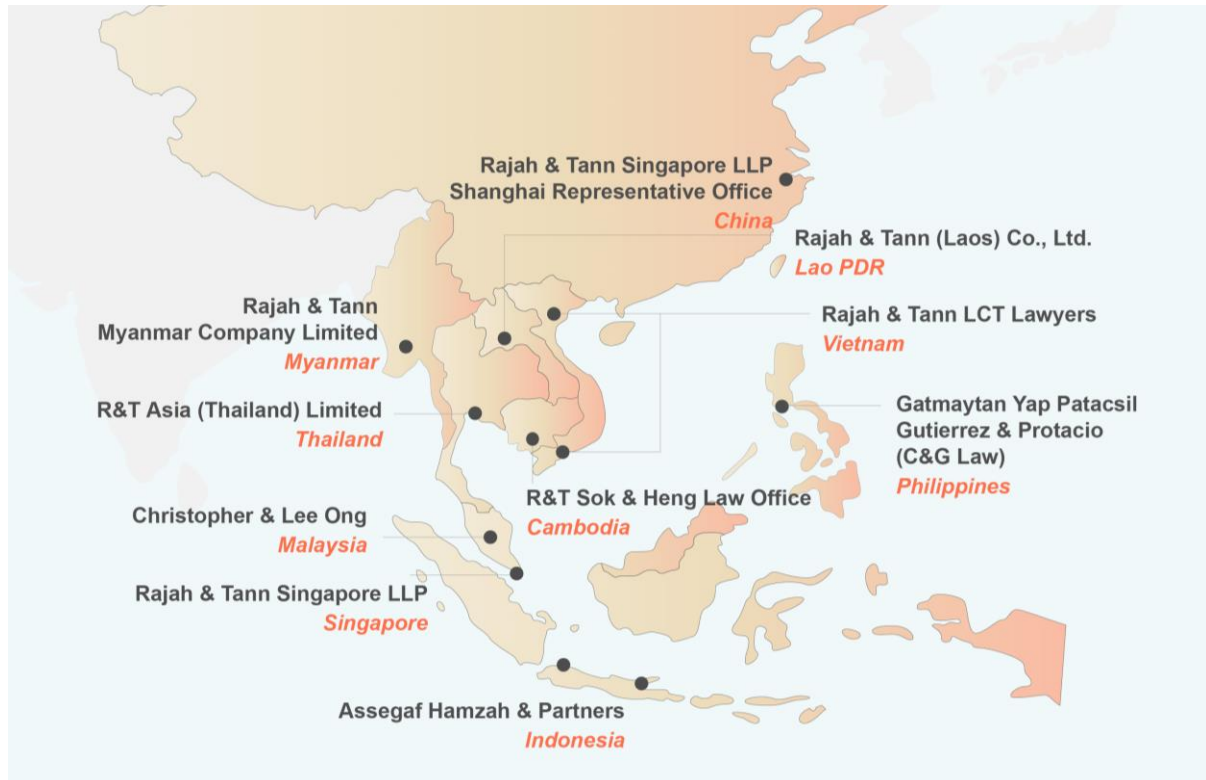
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