

MEDIA RELEASE

National guidelines for waste management published to drive sustainability at MICE events in Singapore

The guidelines will provide guidance and best practices to the industry in reducing waste at MICE events

Singapore, Tuesday, 7 March 2023

[7 March 2023] – To enable the Singapore MICE industry to reduce its environmental impact and align with national sustainability targets, Singapore Association of Convention & Exhibition Organisers & Suppliers (SACEOS) worked with more than 20 public and private stakeholders¹ in the MICE value chain to develop a set of guidelines for waste management².

SACEOS and the Singapore Standards Council (SSC), which is overseen by Enterprise Singapore, launched the new Workshop Agreement (WA), known as WA 3 Sustainable MICE – Guidelines for waste management, today. Applicable to MICE events with 50 or more attendees, WA 3 provides specific guidelines for various MICE stakeholders, including event organisers, venues, event builders, food and beverage providers and exhibitors. These include setting waste management goals and reducing specific types of waste through a reduce, reuse, and recycle approach. More details on WA 3 can be found in Annex A.

The new guidelines are in line with the Singapore MICE Sustainability Roadmap³ which was launched on 1 December 2022. WA 3 referenced both international and national standards to help the industry organise greener events through practical guidelines and industry best practices. The guidelines are also aligned with the Singapore Green Plan 2030, which calls for a 30% reduction in waste sent to landfills by 2030.

WA 3 aims to support the sustainable transformation of the MICE industry and position Singapore as one of the most sustainable MICE destinations in Asia Pacific, and a preferred destination choice for holding green events.

To build waste management capabilities among MICE stakeholders, SACEOS will be running its first MICE Waste Management Guidelines workshop based on WA 3 on 12 April 2023. The workshop will promote awareness and provide guidance to reduce specific waste generated by each stakeholder. This will enable MICE stakeholders to start establishing specific initiatives and support companies to prepare for MICE Sustainability Certification by 2025. More information and eligibility can be found at <https://saceos.glueup.com/event/mice-waste-management-guidelines-workshop-73790/>

¹ Please refer to Annex A for the full list of stakeholders.

² Guidelines for Waste Management is part of a suite of sustainability-related Workshop Agreements (WA) being developed by SACEOS in partnership with the MICE industry

³ Singapore MICE Sustainability Roadmap - <https://saceos.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/MICE-Sustainability-Roadmap.pdf>

Mr Sukumar Verma, Vice President, Industry & Enterprise, SACEOS, said: “Sustainability will be at the core of Singapore’s MICE industry in 2023 and beyond as we are committed to play our part in reducing the environmental impact of business events. This standard on waste management is in line with the MICE Sustainability Roadmap and provides MICE players with practical information for managing and reducing waste at events. Furthermore, the standard’s contributors recognised that waste management can be amplified through a coordinated effort, thus crafted the recommendations to promote collaboration across the value chain. This enables organisations to reduce the amount of waste to landfill per capita per day by 30%, as aligned with the SG Green Plan. We are confident that the guidelines will help the industry take another important step towards a more sustainable future.

Ms Choy Sauw Kook, Director-General (Quality & Excellence), EnterpriseSG, said: “Waste generation from MICE events is a key concern for the industry as Singapore moves towards becoming a more sustainable nation. The publication of WA 3 will support the industry’s aspirations to reduce the environmental impact through the adoption of good industry practices. EnterpriseSG will also collaborate closely with our partners to promote the wider use and application of WA 3 within the MICE industry. We will continue to develop new standards, such as guidelines for carbon neutral events, to deepen our support for sustainability. We encourage strong industry and government participation in the development of these new standards.”

E-copies of the guidelines are available for purchase on the [Singapore Standards eShop](#). WA 3 can also be accessed for viewing at public libraries.

About SACEOS

Singapore Association of Convention & Exhibition Organisers & Suppliers (SACEOS) was formed in 1979 with a mission to be the voice and champion of the Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, Exhibitions (MICE) and Events industry, and to bring the community together with a common vision of strengthening Singapore's position as the leading global destination for events.

By working closely with the government, SACEOS is committed in supporting the industry by fostering innovation, transformation and development. Through our pillars of Community, Commerce and Capabilities, we strive to equip enterprises and workforce to meet their evolving needs, and to emerge stronger together.

For more information, please contact Daniel Teo, Head of Communications and Content, SACEOS: Email: daniel@saceos.org.sg Tel: +65 9476 1154 or www.saceos.org.sg

About the Singapore Standards Council

The Singapore Standards Council (SSC) facilitates the development, promotion and review of Singapore Standards, Technical References and Workshop Agreements in Singapore. This work is done through partnerships with the industry, academia and government organisations, under the national standardisation programme overseen by Enterprise Singapore.

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Annex A

Factsheet on WA 3 Sustainable MICE – Guidelines for waste management

WA 3⁴ provides waste management guidance for the MICE value chain (i.e., event organisers, venues, event builders, food and beverage providers and exhibitors). The key recommendations for each value chain player are as follows:

	Key recommendations
Recommendation across all value chain players (expect exhibitors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measure and track waste generation and recycling rate - Calculate the landfill and/or incineration diversion rate - Establish a baseline of the organisation’s waste profile and set waste reduction and recycling goals
Event organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with venues to inform exhibitors on the waste management infrastructure and processes of the event venue - Advise event builders to construct the core structural builds with reused, reusable and recyclable materials - Request food and beverage providers to provide the event’s food performance for the purpose of waste reduction in future events
Venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide infrastructure for waste storage and processes to dispose and recycle different waste categories - Enable event organisers to use technology to reduce paper use. Such includes digital signages and programmes and e-registrations - Work with event organisers to provide a waste-related policy for moving in and out of the venue by event builders and exhibitors. The policy should include content such as types of materials to be used, pallet reuse/recycling programme and waste objectives
Event builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend for core structural builds to be constructed with reused, reusable and recyclable materials - Communicate to event organisers about the organisation’s low-waste options for event builds, such as reusing, repurposing and recycling of materials - Offer the option of low-waste event builds at competitive pricings
Food and beverage providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop plans for kitchen facilities to sort waste according to material types for disposal to their respective local recycling services - Provide a report for an event’s food performance, which contains information such as menu planning, donation of excess food and recycling of food waste - Recommend against the use of single-use items as part of the organisation’s policy
Exhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce staging materials such as opting for rentals, reusable sets or alternative staging (e.g. projections) - Recommend the reduction of the use of temporary carpets - Reduce waste during moving in and out of the exhibition venue, such as reducing and reusing packaging materials, consolidating shipments and documenting items to be donated

⁴ A Workshop Agreement is a fast-track document developed to respond to an urgent industry need and with wider industry participation. It involves a shorter development time with limited consensus and has a validity period of 2 years after completion.

The workshop participants consisted of representatives from the following organisations who contributed in their individual capacity: 800 Super Waste Management Pte Ltd, Bureau Veritas, EPI Certification, Expotrans Pte Ltd, Greenview, Informa Markets Singapore, Kingsmen Exhibits Pte Ltd, Marina Bay Sands, National Environment Agency, National Healthcare Group, RC Hotels Pte Ltd, Resort World Sentosa, Sentosa Development Corporation, Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers, Singapore Tourism Board, Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, TRICOM Events, TÜV Rheinland Singapore Pte Ltd, TÜV SÜD PSB Pte Ltd, Wah & Hua Pte Ltd and Zero Waste City