

Statistics of OSHC’s “OSH Enhancement Scheme for SMEs for Safe Work at Confined Space” from 2022 to 2025

Below are the numbers of available quotas, applications received, approved applications, and cancelled/rejected applications for the Enhancement Scheme from 2022 to 2025 (up to 22 June 2025):

Table 1 – Figures related to the application for the Enhancement Scheme

Year	Quota	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applications Approved	Number of Applications Cancelled or Rejected
2022-2023 (Note 1)	40	65	49 (Note 2)	16
2023-2024	50	67	47	20
2024-2025	50	79	69 (Note 2)	10
2025-2026 (Note 3)	55	10	4	0

Note 1: OSHC launched the Enhancement Scheme in June 2022.

Note 2: Due to the overwhelming responses in 2022-2023 and 2024-2025, the number of applications exceeded the original quotas. To meet industry demand, additional resources were allocated to provide extra financial support for the additional approved applications.

Note 3: As at 22 June 2025.

When submitting the application, SMEs need to complete the application form and attach the documents required (such as a business registration certificate) for processing. Some enterprises could not provide all necessary information even though OSHC had made multiple contacts with them and therefore, their applications could not be processed. These enterprises can resubmit applications after resolving the related issues.

The Enhancement Scheme is divided into two categories: (1) new applicants - SMEs that have never applied for OSHC’s confined space work safety-related subsidy schemes; and (2) previously subsidised enterprises - SMEs that have been

subsidised by OSHC to purchase gas detector but they can apply for upgraded safety equipment under the 2.0 scheme, such as enhanced gas detector and motion-sensing alarm devices. However, the subsidy for these SMEs will be lower than new applicants.

From 2022 to 2025, the average subsidy for each new SME application was approximately \$16,400, while that for previously subsidised SMEs was about \$11,100. The amount included subsidy for purchasing safety equipment, course fee waivers, allowances and subsidy for conducting risk assessment.

The approved applications involved different kinds of work, including construction, drainage, electrical and mechanical engineering work, etc. The scope of business nature is as follows:

Table 2 – Breakdowns of the business nature of the approved applicants under the Enhancement Scheme

Year	Business nature			
	Construction Works	Drainage Works	Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Works	Others (Note 2)
2022-2023 (Note 1)	20	9	13	7
2023-2024	11	11	14	11
2024-2025	20	11	18	20
2025-2026 (Note 3)	0	2	2	0

Note 1: OSHC launched the Enhancement Scheme in June 2022.

Note 2: The business of other approved applicants included water tank maintenance and swimming pool management.

Note 3: As at 22 June 2025.