

Our Ref: BCA ID 89.11.2 Vol 1

1 October 2018

## **CIRCULAR TO PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES/ ASSOCIATIONS**

### **REVISION OF THE GREEN MARK STANDARD FOR OFFICE INTERIORS – BCA-HPB GREEN MARK FOR HEALTHIER WORKPLACES: 2018 (GM HW: 2018)**

#### **Objective**

1 The circular is to inform the industry on the revision of the Green Mark standard for office interiors.

#### **Background**

2 The current BCA Green Mark for Office Interior (Version 1.1) scheme was last reviewed in 2012. In May 2018, BCA released a pilot version of a new criteria that has been jointly developed with the Health Promotion Board (HPB). Titled BCA-HPB Green Mark for Healthier Workplaces (GM HW: 2018), the pilot criteria was drafted with extensive industry consultation involving more than 150 industry stakeholders from building owners, landlords, corporate real estate firms, facility managers, consultants, ID contractors, industry associations and government agencies. Since then, the criteria was further refined and reviewed based on results from companies who have stepped forward to pilot the criteria as well as further industry feedback.

#### **Details of Revision**

3 The finalised criteria is ready for implementation and will supersede the pilot version. It is now made available through the following URL: [https://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMark/GM\\_Healthier\\_Workplaces.html](https://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMark/GM_Healthier_Workplaces.html).

#### **Implementation Timeline**

4 The BCA-HPB Green Mark for Healthier Workplaces (GM HW: 2018) scheme will come into effect on **1 April 2019** (Effective Date) and will replace the current BCA Green Mark for Office Interior (Version 1.1) scheme. All office interior projects with Green Mark applications submitted on and after the Effective Date will be assessed and certified based on GM HW: 2018. Projects with Green Mark applications submitted before the Effective Date are given a grace period of 6 months from the Effective Date to be assessed based on Green Mark for Office Interior (Version 1.1). Should the Green Mark assessment of any project be incomplete by the end of the grace period (i.e. BCA's Letter of Award to be issued by 30 September 2019), the project will then be assessed and certified based on the GM HW: 2018 standard.

5 The implementation timeline for the adoption of BCA-HPB GM HW: 2018 for other green building initiatives are listed below:

Green Building Initiatives	Implementation Timeline
<p><u>Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings and Premises (GMIS-EBP)</u></p> <p>Cash incentive amounting up to 50% of the Qualifying Costs incurred solely for the purposes of energy efficiency improvements in tenanted office premises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the submission date of BCA GMIS-EBP application.</li> <li>• The GMIS-EBP is applicable for projects applying for GM HW: 2018 and meets all requirements listed in GMIS-EBP.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Public Sector Taking the Lead on Environmental Sustainability (PSTLES)</u></p> <p>All new public sector office premises or those that undergo major renovation are to achieve at least a Gold rating under the Green Mark for Office Interiors scheme. Office premises that do not fall under the above category are to retain the Eco-Office Green Office Label till their next office renovation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the date of tender notices for the consultancy or design of the project.</li> <li>• The new BCA-HPB GM HW: 2018 criteria will be applicable to public sector projects with tenders for design that are called on or after 1 April 2019.</li> <li>• For projects with tenders for design called before 1 April 2019, a grace period of 6 months from the Effective Date will be given to complete the Green Mark assessment based on the BCA Green Mark for Office Interiors (Version 1.1) scheme (i.e. until 30 September 2019). The revised GM HW: 2018 will apply if the Green Mark assessment is not completed within the stipulated timeline.</li> </ul>

### Incentives and Grants

6 For early movers, a comprehensive suite of incentives and programmes are made available by BCA and HPB to help companies. BCA's current Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Building and Premises (GMIS-EBP) has been extended to fund SMEs who wish to be certified under GM HW: 2018. Companies can also tap on HPB's SME Health+ that supports health and fitness initiatives for SMEs and Workplace Alliance for Health (WAH) Scheme for medium to large private corporations. More details can be found on the BCA and HPB websites.

Target Group	Incentive Scheme
<p>Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)</p>	<p>BCA's Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Building and Premises (GMIS-EBP)  <a href="https://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMark/gmisebp.html">https://www.bca.gov.sg/GreenMark/gmisebp.html</a></p> <p>HPB's SME Health+  <a href="https://www.hpb.gov.sg/workplace/workplace-programmes/sme-workplace-health-package">https://www.hpb.gov.sg/workplace/workplace-programmes/sme-workplace-health-package</a></p>

Medium to large private corporations	HPB's Workplace Alliance for Health (WAH) Scheme ( <a href="https://www.hpb.gov.sg/workplace/workplace-programmes/workplace-alliance-for-health-scheme">https://www.hpb.gov.sg/workplace/workplace-programmes/workplace-alliance-for-health-scheme</a> )
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### For Clarification

7 We would appreciate if you could convey the contents of this circular to members of your organisation. For clarification, please submit your enquiry through BCA's Online Feedback Form at <https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/> or call us at 1800 342 5222, or contact the following officers.

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Thank you.

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