

6 May 2020

ADVISORY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - SUSPENSION OF NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO REDUCE COVID-19 TRANSMISSION - (BCA AGGREGATE TERMINAL BERTH OPERATORS AND AGGREGATE IMPORTERS)

1. Under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 (“**COVID-19 Act**”) and the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 (“**Control Order**”), all non-essential services at non-residential premises must be suspended during the original circuit breaker period from 7 April 2020 to 4 May 2020 (“**Original Circuit Breaker Period**”) to reduce the risk of further local transmission of COVID-19. Only companies which provide essential services and their related supply chains are exempted from this suspension.
2. With the extension of the Original Circuit Breaker Period until **1 June 2020, 2359 hours** (inclusive), businesses which had earlier received approvals from the MTI to operate during the Original Circuit Breaker Period can continue doing so until 1 June 2020, 2359 hours (inclusive) (collectively the “**Extended Circuit Breaker Period**”) unless MTI terminates such approvals. MTI will notify those businesses whose approvals have been terminated

Essential Services When Work Suspension is In Force

3. **The operation of BCA Aggregate Terminal Berth and Aggregate Importers falls within the scope of essential services as set out by MTI, to ensure continuous supply of key construction aggregates in Singapore.** However, Berth Operators and Aggregate Importers should allow employees who carry out administrative duties to telecommute from home. For works which require staff to be stationed on site or at commercial storage plots that BCA oversees, aggregate importers should ensure that the employees who report for work should be kept to a minimum.
4. All stakeholders of the construction industry, including developers, builders, qualified persons, site supervisors and construction material suppliers, must comply with the suspension of non-essential services including non-essential building works during the Extended Circuit Breaker Period, for which this advisory provides BCA’s guidance.
5. Please note that non-compliance with the suspension of non-essential services is an offence under the COVID-19 Act. Penalties for non-compliance include a fine of up to S\$10,000 or imprisonment of up to six months or both.

Construction Sector Foreign Workers Subject to the Extension of Stay-Home Notice (“SHN”) to 18 May 2020

6. The Building and Construction Authority (“**BCA**”) and the Ministry of Manpower (“**MOM**”) have issued a joint directive on 1 May 2020 (“**Directive**”) to inform employers and all foreign workers in the construction sector holding work permits or S-passes (“**Foreign Workers**”) (and their dependants where applicable) are subject to an extended SHN period from 5 May 2020 to 18 May 2020 (both dates inclusive) (“**Extended SHN Period**”). Please see details at <http://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/advisory-to-employers-in-construction-sector>

7. Should firms wish to deploy Foreign Workers to perform building works as essential service during the Extended SHN Period, firms need to apply at <https://go.gov.sg/appeal-bca-continue-works> to seek BCA's exemption from the SHN for identified Foreign Workers to perform building works as essential service. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and the number of Foreign Workers granted exemption from the SHN, if any, to perform essential service will be subject to BCA's assessment.
8. **Employers who have earlier been approved by BCA for their Foreign Workers to carry out essential services during the original SHN period may continue to do so during the Extended SHN Period, unless BCA terminates these approvals. No reapplication to BCA is necessary.** Foreign Workers granted exemption are allowed to leave their places of residence only to perform essential activities; all remaining conditions of the SHN (e.g employers to ensure workers do not travel elsewhere except to-and-from work, daily declaration of workers' health status) shall continue to apply.
9. When performing essential services such as maintaining security, environmental control and maintaining safety of building works, etc., employers are encouraged to consider having their workers stay on site. Employers and workers performing essential service are required to comply with the COVID-19 Act, the Control Order, the Directive and the MOM's requirements on relevant housing arrangements, including the submission of declarations to MOM at www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/declaration-convert-workplaces-to-tlg. Employers are responsible for daily needs of their workers who stay on site.
10. The Multi-Ministry Taskforce will regularly review the necessary measures and calibrate them as the global and local COVID-19 situation evolves. You are advised to refer to the website of the Ministry of Health (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>) for updates.
11. For further queries or clarifications, please contact BCA at <http://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform> or 1800-3425222.

Yours faithfully

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