

2 May 2020

**ADVISORY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - SUSPENSION OF NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO REDUCE COVID-19 TRANSMISSION**

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.
3. In line with the above, all non-essential services, including all building works as defined in the Building Control Act (Cap. 29) that are non-essential services, must continue to cease for the Extended Circuit Breaker Period.
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.

**Essential Services When Work Suspension is In Force**

6. During the Extended Circuit Breaker Period, all non-essential building works shall cease.
7. Building works that comprises essential services includes:
  - (a) maintenance of the structural safety and integrity of building works;
  - (b) maintenance of security of the project site;
  - (c) environmental protection of the project site (e.g. vector control).

A full list of the essential services when the work suspension is in force is set out in **Annex A**.

8. Before commencing any building works that is essential service, the relevant firms must apply to MTI at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg> for your firm to be allowed to continue performing the building works as essential services during the Extended Circuit Breaker Period.

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

9. 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>
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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](http://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/declaration-convert-workplaces-to-tlg). Employers are responsible for daily needs of their workers who stay on site.
13. 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.
14. For further queries or clarifications, please contact BCA at <http://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform> or 1800-3425222.

Yours faithfully

ER. CHEW KEAT CHUAN  
COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

**Annex A – Essential services when work suspension is in force**

#	Site Activity	Remarks
1	Provision and maintenance of security at the project site.	
2	Provision of vector control.	Routine pest control service must be carried out by a licensed pest control operator even during the circuit breaker period. The builder shall keep all pest control service reports on site for checks by an NEA officer when required.
3	Inspection by qualified persons to ensure site safety / stability including temporary structures.	
4	Instrumentation and monitoring (I&M) of building works and adjacent structures.	Weekly. Qualified persons may omit I&M when the work suspension is in force if I&M is assessed to be unnecessary.
5	Maintenance of tunnel boring machines including pipe jacking machines and maintenance of face pressure.	
6	Maintenance and operation of recharge wells.	
7	Operation of ECM / pumps to pump out excess water during rainy day.	
8	Monitoring and maintenance for the safety of heavy equipment (e.g tower cranes)	

<p>9</p>	<p>Receiving materials, precast components and other supplies (direct to construction sites or factories/storage facilities) through: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Land transport from Malaysia; or</li> <li>b) From air/sea ports.</li> </ul>	<p>Businesses may receive the delivery of materials and other supplies at construction sites or factories / storage facilities.</p> <p>Businesses should put in place COVID-19 precautionary measures when receiving deliveries. This includes obtaining the vehicle plate numbers and contact details of delivery personnel to facilitate contract tracing, improving the ventilation of the delivery loading and unloading area, minimising the number of people in this area at any point of time and designating toilets, located away from other staff amenities for delivery personnel to use.</p> <p>If interaction or assistance from delivery personnel is absolutely necessary, the period of interaction should be kept short, while observing safe distancing at all times. Physical contact should be avoided.</p> <p>Delivery personnel are to observe safe distancing measures when making deliveries. This includes keeping at least 1 metre apart from others at all times including during unloading, minimising contact with others while making deliveries, washing of hands with soap and to deliver the materials directly to the destination without detouring.</p>
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