

2 September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

COMPLIANCE WITH SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND ADOPTION OF GOOD PRACTICES TO MINIMISE WORKSITE DISRUPTIONS

Potential Risk of COVID-19 Spread at Construction Sites

1. There have been more cases of COVID-19 infection in Singapore involving workers from the construction sector. As a safety precaution, BCA has issued Safety Time-Out (STO) notices to the builders of the affected worksites where there are workers diagnosed with COVID-19. The builders are required to disinfect the sites and review and/or strengthen their safe management measures plans before the STO notices can be lifted. BCA has also stepped up checks on these worksites to ensure that SMM are complied with. Builders are reminded to continue to keep up with high vigilance and comply with SMM on the worksites, to manage the risk of transmission and reduce work disruptions.

Current Requirements at Worksites

2. Safe management officers are required to ensure safe management measures are implemented at worksites, and all persons at the worksites including visitors, roving sub-contractors and delivery personnel comply with the safe management measures. Permitted enterprises (i.e. companies that have been approved to resume work) are reminded to ensure that all safe management measures are complied with, including the following:

- a. Ensure that all personnel must wear a mask at all times except during activities that require masks to be removed (e.g. mealtimes) and such activities must adhere strictly to safe distancing and segregated teams;
- b. Ensure that all personnel wear a mask over and covering the wearer's nose and mouth, with the mask touching the wearer's nose and cheeks at all times; and
- c. Ensure that all persons entering into worksites perform TraceTogether only SafeEntry (TT-Only SE) check-in using a TraceTogether App or TraceTogether/BluePass Token for contact tracing purposes.

Good Practices Encouraged at Worksites

3. In addition to the mandatory safe management measures, permitted enterprises are encouraged to take the following additional steps to reduce the risk of worksite disruption and COVID-19 transmission at worksites:
 - a. BCA has observed that while (TT-only SE) is being implemented at the main entrance/exit, majority of the worksites do not have TT-only SE at the work zones to track the movement of workers within the site. As such, BCA is unable to determine the specific work zone(s) visited by COVID-19 positive cases. This has resulted in a full STO being issued to the worksite instead of a partial STO for the specific work zone(s) that was visited by the COVID-19 positive case. Industry should adopt zonal TT-Only SE check-in at ALL work zones within the worksite. This would require the main builder to register additional SE branch codes for each zone. With the zonal SE check-in, this would allow the permitted enterprise and government agencies to better identify where the workers were working and minimise the stop work disruptions to all work zones when there is a COVID-19 Positive case detected at the worksite;

- b. Masks are essential tools to minimise transmission risks. Other than proper mask wearing, Builders should ensure all workers wear masks with good filtration capability (e.g. surgical masks), as recommended by the Ministry of Health and not makeshift masks (e.g. scarves or other cloth coverings not intended for masking). For more info, please visit [https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/general/faqs---masks-and-personal-protective-equipment-\(ppe\)](https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/general/faqs---masks-and-personal-protective-equipment-(ppe)); and
- c. Keep a current version of the zoning plans and details of the workers deployed to work in the respective zones on site for BCA's audit and for contact tracing purposes.

Update of Requirements at Worksites

- 4. We would like to highlight that the requirement for Builders to conduct regular temperature screening and checks for respiratory symptoms for all workers and visitors at construction project sites and supply work premises has been removed with effect from 19 August 2021 (in line with [MOH press release](#) dated 6 August 2021 on the removal of temperature screening requirement in public premises).

Enforcement Action

- 5. BCA takes a serious view of any breach in COVID-19 regulations as they can easily undermine the efforts and good work of the rest of the industry in combating the transmission of COVID-19. Some of the common inadequacies in safe management measures include worksites not implementing TT-Only SE check-in at their main entrance and permitted enterprises not complying with the swabbing and roving sub-contractor requirements. BCA will take action against permitted enterprises which are found to be non-compliant with COVID-19

regulations. This includes the issuance of Stop Work Order (SWO) or composition fine up to \$2,000 of such non-compliant permitted enterprises.

Working Together and Keeping Safe

6. BCA seeks the cooperation of the industry to ensure strict compliance with safe management measures and keep tighter controls at worksites to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmissions and resurgence of COVID-19 cases, which can disrupt industry work progress. Let us work together to keep our worksites safe.
7. Please disseminate the contents of the circular to your members.
8. Do subscribe to BCA's Telegram Channel – t.me/BCASingapore for the latest updates, and refer to the BCA Website – www1.bca.gov.sg/COVID-19 for further information. If you require any clarifications, please write to us via [BCA's online feedback form](#). As we anticipate a surge in queries, we seek your understanding that there may be some delays in our replies.
9. Thank you.

Yours faithfully

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for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL