

UPDATED AS OF 2 MAY 2020

SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES AT WORKPLACE PREMISES TO REDUCE COVID-19 TRANSMISSION – FAQs FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Q1. Can I continue to do works related to earth control measures (ECM), vector control, security of site, and site maintenance? Do I need to apply for a permit with BCA? Do I need to apply to declare that I am providing essential services at covid.gobusiness.gov.sg?

A1: Yes, these works are considered essential services and you may continue to carry out such works when the work suspension is still in force, upon MTI's approval of your application for essential services to be performed, subject to you also obtaining BCA's SHN exemption approval for all work permit holders and S Pass holders in the construction sector to leave their ordinary places of residence only to perform the relevant work. No other permission from BCA is needed to carry out essential services. However, you must declare that you are providing essential services at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg>. Safe distancing practices must also be in place, for employees who must work on site.

Q2. Does the suspension apply to renovation works including works that are considered insignificant?

A2: Yes, the suspension applies to projects involving renovation works and insignificant building works. Only essential services such as the repair of roofs, ceilings, walls, floor water leakages, electrical repairs, aircon repairs and plumbing repairs in homes are permitted. Safe distancing practices must also be in place, for employees who must work on site.

Q3. What are the responsibilities of a qualified person ("QP") during the suspension period?

A3: The QP shall ensure the continual structural safety of building works at the site during the period when the suspension is in force. The QP shall inspect his/her project sites at least once a week to ensure continual structural safety of building works.

Inspections by QPs to ensure structural safety are considered essential services and you may continue to carry out such works when the work suspension is still in force. No permission from BCA is needed to carry out essential services. However, you must obtain MTI's approval of your application for essential services to be performed (as described above) and declare that you are providing essential services at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg>.

The builder shall ensure that the professional engineers engaged by him/her for temporary works design carry out similar tasks as mentioned above. This includes ensuring that the protective hoarding and safety netting remain in good condition for the entire duration of the suspension.

Safe distancing practices must also be in place, for all who must work on site.

Q4. Does the QP continue to monitor site instrumentation readings during the suspension?

A4: Yes, the QP shall continue to monitor and assess the site instrumentation readings to ensure that they are still within the safe limits during the full duration of the suspension. The QP shall report any readings that exceed Alert Level / Work Suspension Level to BCA and propose the necessary remedial actions where warranted. Safe distancing practices must also be in place, for employees who must work on site.

Q5. If there is a need to retrieve certain document and small portable/ hand-held equipment from the site during suspension, do I need permission from BCA?

A5: No permission from BCA is needed. However, the builder should do so only if necessary, and must ensure the person who is to retrieve certain documents / equipment is not subject to SHN and the person observes all safe distancing measures.

Q6: If developer only needs a few workers to finish up the architectural/M&E works for landed homes, can BCA allow these works to proceed?

A6: No, only activities required to make safe the site may be carried out during the period of suspension.

Q7: Are TOP inspections allowed?

A7: In line with the government's announcement to suspend all non-essential activities to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19, all non-essential building works are required to cease until 1 June 2020, 2359hrs. BCA will temporarily suspend all TOP/CSC site inspections during this period.