

5 April 2020

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

1. On 3 April 2020, MTI issued guidance on the suspension of all non-essential activities at workplace premises 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. In line with this, all work, including all building works as defined in the Building Control Act (Cap. 29), are required to cease with effect from 7 April 2020, 0000 hours to 4 May 2020, 2359 hours (both dates inclusive).
3. All stakeholders of the construction industry, including developers, builders, qualified persons, site supervisors and construction material suppliers, must comply with the work suspension, for which this advisory provides BCA's guidance.
4. Currently, the additional enhanced safe distancing measures are in place until 4 May 2020, but this may be extended if necessary. BCA will issue further advisories where appropriate. Please note that non-compliance with the enhanced safe distancing measures is an offence under the Infectious Diseases Act. Penalties for non-compliance include a fine of up to S\$10,000 or imprisonment of up to six months or both. In addition, existing powers under the Infectious Diseases Act, including the temporary suspension of operations, may be used against persons and operators who do not comply with the Regulations.

### **Necessary Works before Work Suspension Comes Into Force**

5. All project parties (i.e. developers, builders, qualified persons and site supervisors) ("**Project Parties**") must **immediately** carry out all necessary works ("**Necessary Works**") to ensure the structural safety and integrity of ongoing building works, so that the building works may be suspended safely and remain safe for the full duration when the work suspension is in force. Examples of Necessary Works include concreting the last pile, installation of temporary supports for earth retaining and stabilising structures, and installation of temporary supports to enhance the stability of structural precast components. Please refer to **Annex A** for other examples and details.
6. All Necessary Works must be completed before the work suspension takes effect. If Project Parties are unable to complete the Necessary Works before the work suspension takes effect, Project Parties can write to MTI to request for an extension of time at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg>. The following information will be required:
  - (a) The outstanding Necessary Works that cannot be completed when the work suspension comes into force;
  - (b) Reasons for failure to complete Necessary Works before the work suspension comes into force; and
  - (c) The amount of time required for completion of outstanding Necessary Works.

**On 6 Apr 2020, any works undertaken should strictly be to make safe the site before the suspension comes into force. Contractors should cease all efforts to progress the works.**

7. To facilitate the completion of the Necessary Works', the National Environment Agency's No-work Rule on Sundays will not apply to the performance of the Necessary Works from Saturday, 4 April 2020, 2200 hours to Monday, 6 April 2020, 0700 hours.

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

8. When the work suspension is in force, all building works shall cease, except for works that are deemed essential:
  - (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 B**.

9. For the purposes of maintaining security, environmental control and maintaining safety of building works, etc., **main contractors are encouraged to consider having the workers stay on site and keep MOM informed of the arrangement.** Employers should supervise their workers to ensure that their workers comply with all safe distancing measures, and workers should avoid going out unnecessarily. Employers are responsible for daily needs of their workers who stay on site.
10. The Multi-Ministry Taskforce will regularly review the safe distancing measures and calibrate them as the global and local situation evolves. You are advised to refer to the MOH website (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>) for the latest measures.
11. 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 – Examples of Necessary Works**

#	Examples of Necessary Works
1	Backfilling of excavated sites
2	Works to protect excavation surface (e.g. with lean concrete)
3	Performance and stopping of tunnelling / TBM work at a safe location
4	Completion of unsupported portion of mining works with shotcrete lining
5	Cordoning-off of surface of the TBM / mining location and providing settlement markers for monitoring.

**Annex B – 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.	
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).	
9	Receiving of materials and precast components.	For firms receiving these materials, temperature screening of cargo vehicle drivers and accompanying personnel and safe distancing measures are required.