

BCA Ref no.: BCA-20200810

10 August 2020

To: All employers of foreign workers registered with MOM under construction account

PERMISSION FOR COMPANIES TO RESUME WORK FROM 10 AUGUST 2020 AND REVIEW OF COVID-SAFE ACCOMMODATION CRITERIA

Key Points

- With effect from 10 August 2020, all firms employing foreign workers registered with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) under the Construction Account (foreign construction workers) will be allowed to resume work without applying to BCA for approval, unless the foreign construction workers are deployed to perform work at construction sites¹ or supply works premises².
- By 13 August 2020, AccessCode Work Status for all foreign construction workers will show 'Yes' under "Approved to Start Work".
- Approval from BCA is still required for performing work at construction sites and supply works premises. This will include the need to provide the worksite plan for Safe Management Measures in relation to the workforce deployed on site.
- With effect from 10 August 2020, the requirement for the workforce on construction sites and supply work premises to be limited to only 10 accommodations will be temporarily suspended to facilitate restart.

1. Since the end of circuit breaker on 2 Jun, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has focused its efforts on helping and ensuring companies restart their construction projects safely. To date, more than 3300 projects have been approved.

¹ Construction sites include those which are not yet approved to restart works

² Supply work premises refer to:

- (a) Conventional precast concrete yard
- (b) Integrated construction and prefabrication hub (ICPH)
- (c) Prefabricated prefinished volumetric construction (PPVC) fit-out factory
- (d) Prefabricated bathroom unit (PBU) fit-out factory
- (e) Prefabricated mechanical, electrical and plumbing factory
- (f) Ready-mixed concrete (RMC) plant
- (g) Sand and aggregate terminal

Permission to Resume Work from 10 August 2020 Without Application to BCA

2. With almost all dormitories cleared of COVID-19 infections by the Inter-Agency Task Force (ITF), BCA, with effect from 10 August 2020, will allow all firms employing foreign construction workers to resume work without applying to BCA (refer to Attachment A for the permission). Access to specific construction sites or supply works premises will still require approval, to be applied for by Main Contractors. Firms are reminded to ensure that the conditions of the permission are adhered to. Otherwise, the permission may be terminated and enforcement action may be taken.

AccessCode Work Status for Foreign Construction Workers

3. As a result, by 13 August 2020³, the AccessCode work status for all foreign construction workers will display 'Yes' under the "Approved to Start Work" category. This means that foreign construction workers who have also met all other conditions - including being cleared of COVID-19, are not on stay-home notice, installed TraceTogether app and are occupying a cleared residence – will be allowed to leave their residences to work. Employers can check such details of their foreign construction workers' AccessCode status in the [Safe@Work eService](#)⁴.

BCA's Approval is Still Required for Performance of Work at Construction Sites and Supply Works Premises

4. Main Contractors must still apply for specific approval of the workforce performing work at construction sites and supply works premises. This is because construction sites and supply works premises typically involve a large number of workers, giving rise to risks of COVID-19 transmission. To minimize such risks at construction sites and supply works premises, Main Contractors must set out plans in their applications to BCA to implement safe management measures for all subcontractors and the subcontractors' workers on site.

- To restart/start a construction project or supply works, Main Contractors can apply for approval via <https://go.gov.sg/bca-construction-supply> for all workforce deployed (including subcontractors' workforce).

³ If your foreign construction workers' "Approved to Start Work" category is not reflected as "Yes" after 13 August, please write to us with the workers' details via email BCA_SafeWorkForce@bca.gov.sg.

⁴ Please refer to the [Safe@Work eService onboarding guide](#) for more information.

- To resume/start site activities⁵ at construction sites where construction works have not restarted, firms can apply to BCA via <https://go.gov.sg/bca-essential-site-activities> if foreign construction workers will be deployed.

Review of COVID-Safe Accommodation Criteria

5. Under the current COVID-Safe Accommodation criteria, BCA requires Main Contractors to house foreign workers (including their sub-contractors' foreign workers) working at a construction site or supply works premise in no more than 10 accommodations (10-accommodation restriction). This is to limit the cross-mixing risk arising from foreign workers living in different accommodations across projects.

6. In view that almost all dormitories are cleared of COVID-19 infection, ***BCA, with immediate effect, will temporarily suspend the 10-accommodation restriction to facilitate restart.*** During this time, employers should work towards housing their foreign workers together by project, but minimally by employer (preferably by the project sites they are deployed at).

7. Employers are to continue to work closely with the accommodation operators to ensure safe living measures are practised at their workers' accommodations. As more foreign workers are deployed to work, Main Contractors and premise owners must enforce strict segregation of workers, and ensure workers residing in different accommodations or performing different activities do not intermingle on site. MOM and BCA will be stepping up our inspections. Appropriate enforcement action, including issuance of stop work orders, will be taken against parties who do not comply with the safe management measures.

8. We wish to remind all industry stakeholders to remain vigilant, as we take steady steps towards restarting work in a *new normal*. Employers' responsibility remains key for us to achieve a new COVID-19 normal where we can resume most activities and events safely.

9. If you need further clarifications, please send your queries through [BCA Feedback Form](#). For latest updates from BCA, please visit [BCA's COVID-19 webpage](#) or subscribe to [BCA Telegram channel](#). We wish you and your business all the best for a successful and safe restart.

⁵ Please refer to Annex A of BCA's Advisory dated 2 May 2020 (<http://www.go.gov.sg/bca-advisory-construction-industry>) for the site activities. Examples of such site activities are construction site maintenance and vector control.
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Yours faithfully

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

Attachment A – PERMISSION TO RESUME WORK BY FIRMS WITH FOREIGN WORKERS REGISTERED WITH MOM UNDER CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT (EXCLUDING WORK AT CONSTRUCTION SITES AND SUPPLY WORKS PREMISES)

Ref no.: BCA-20200810

All firms with foreign workers registered with Ministry of Manpower (MOM) under the Construction Account (“Workers”) are hereby **PERMITTED** to resume work with effect from 10 August 2020, subject to the conditions in the Annex. Access to specific construction sites or supply works premises will still require approval, to be applied for by Main Contractors.

In addition, the AccessCode for your Workers will show ‘Yes’, under the Approved to Start Work category by 13 August 2020.

The Ministry of Trade & Industry, in consultation with the Building and Construction Authority, may, at any time, withdraw this permission, should you fail to comply with the conditions listed in the Annex.

For any queries, please send to [BCA Feedback form](#).

Regards,
Ministry of Trade & Industry in consultation with Building and Construction Authority

Annex – Conditions of Permission

1. You shall comply with all relevant laws including the COVID-19 (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT 2020 (ACT 14 OF 2020) and COVID-19 (TEMPORARY MEASURES) (CONTROL ORDER) REGULATIONS 2020 when performing works. You may refer to the Act and Regulations from the following link: <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/SL/COVID19TMA2020-S254-2020?DocDate=20200504>
2. You may deploy workers to work only if the workers have AccessCode “Green” status.
3. You must take steps to ensure that your foreign workers registered under the Construction Account with Ministry of Manpower periodically undergo swab tests for timely detection of COVID-19, unless they are working full-time within company corporate office premises. Workers who fail to fulfil the regular swab test requirement will not be allowed to return to work. For further details, please see the additional notes below in respect of swab test arrangements.
4. If you intend to carry out any works at construction sites (including site activities for construction projects not yet restarted) or supply works premises, you are required to submit an application to BCA to restart such works. If you are a sub-contractor restarting works at a construction site or supply works premise, please provide the details of your workers involved in the relevant works to the main contractor of the construction project /owners of the supply works premises for them include in the application to BCA for the necessary approval to restart such works, before the workers may be deployed to perform the relevant works.
5. You must ensure your foreign workers registered under the Construction Account with Ministry of Manpower attend the COVID-Safe Training for Workers and pass the relevant assessment within four (4) weeks from the date that the workers resume work.
6. You are required to declare your manpower details using the “Permissions and Manpower Declaration” link at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg>. The details that you are required to provide are:

(i) the total number of employees/workers working outside their residential premises, and (ii) the proportion of these employees/workers who are working part-time and/or shifts. Should you have questions on the submission requirements, please refer to the answers to frequently asked questions at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg>

COVID-19 Swab Test Arrangements for Workers Performing Works at Construction Sites or Supply Work Premises as well as Foreign Construction Workers

- For workers staying in non-dormitories (e.g. HDB flats or private residential premises), you have to make arrangements for these persons to undergo periodic swab tests through the online Swab Registration System at <https://swab.hpb.gov.sg/ext/login.aspx> within 14 days from this approval. You can create an account at <https://form.gov.sg/5f1fa734dbd349001105c347> if this is not already done. The employees can proceed to work before the swab test.
- For workers staying in dormitories, they may proceed to work only after the dormitory in which they reside has been cleared⁽¹⁾ by Inter-agency Task Force. You are required to make arrangements for these persons to undergo periodic swab tests through the online Swab Registration System at <https://swab.hpb.gov.sg/ext/login.aspx> after their dormitories are cleared. You can create an account at <https://form.gov.sg/5f1fa734dbd349001105c347> if this is not already done.
- The following persons do not need to meet periodic swab test requirements:
 - Singaporeans, Singapore Permanent Residents and foreign workers holding employment pass who are not working at construction sites or supply works premises or who visit construction sites or supply works premises on a transient basis (i.e. only stays on-site for a short period of time such that contact with other on-site personnel is minimal/zero); and
 - Persons who are staying in non-dormitories (e.g. HDB flats or private residential premises) and who are working full-time in corporate office premises.
- Employers who persistently fail to make the required arrangements may have their work pass privileges suspended or revoked.

Note (1): You can refer to <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/cleared-dormitories> for status of cleared dormitories and dormitories due to be cleared. You may also download an infographic on the Safe Return to Work for workers staying in dormitories (<https://www.mom.gov.sg/-/media/mom/documents/covid-19/posters/6-milestones-to-safe-return-to-work.pdf>).