

An MND Statutory Board

5 Aug 2021
[Updated on 6 Aug 2021]

Dear Sir/Madam

CALL FOR INDUSTRY TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND TO ENSURE SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE TO KEEP OUR CONSTRUCTION SECTOR COVID-SAFE

Potential Risk of COVID-19 Spread at Construction Sites

1. There have been new cases of COVID-19 infection in Singapore involving workers from the construction sector. As the worksites were visited by workers diagnosed with COVID-19, BCA has ordered works at these worksites to stop, so that the worksites could be disinfected and relevant contractors could review and tighten their plans for safe management measure to be implemented at the worksites. Work at these worksites may only resume, after the safe management measures are reviewed and strengthened.
2. BCA urges the industry to be on high alert and be extra vigilant to minimise the potential risk of COVID-19 spread at construction worksites. Permitted enterprises (i.e. companies that have been approved to resume work) should implement and ensure that safe management measures are complied with to prevent potential disruptions to works or even an industry-wide shutdown, should the situation worsen.

Current Requirements at Worksites

3. Safe management officers (“**SMO**”) 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. Industry is reminded to ensure all safe management measures are complied with, including the following :

- a. Only permit persons who do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 to enter into worksites;
- b. Ensure that all persons intending to enter worksites have undergone at least one PCR swab test and tested negative for COVID-19 within 14 days before the day of entry, before permitting entry into worksites;
- c. Ensure that only workers approved by BCA to work are permitted to enter the worksites;
- d. Ensure that all persons entering into worksites perform TraceTogether only SafeEntry check-in using a TraceTogether App or TraceTogether/BluePass Token for contact tracing purposes;
- e. Check the AccessCodes of all workers and visitors prior to entry into the worksites, and ensure that only AccessCode “Green” workers are allowed to enter the worksites;
- f. 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;
- g. Ensure that foreign workers residing at dormitories and deployed to work at worksites must not live in the same room with workers who are employed by 3 or more different employers; and
- h. Ensure visitors and roving sub-contractors at worksites wear unique visual identifier throughout the duration of the visit and only work in their designated zones segregated from workers at the worksites, as demarcated by the

permitted enterprises. Visitors and roving sub-contractors must be under the close supervision of a SMO or Safe Distancing Officer (“**SDO**”) at all times to ensure compliance with safe management measures.

Good Practices Encouraged at Worksites

4. In addition to the mandatory safe management measures, permitted enterprises should consider taking the following additional steps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at worksites:
 - a. Permitted enterprises managing construction worksites and construction supply works premises¹ should come onboard to pilot Antigen Rapid Test (“**ART**”) implementation² at their worksites, as an additional surveillance tool to screen persons who are not residing in dormitories (i.e. those residing in HDB and private residential properties) before these persons enter into worksites. The ART regime will complement the rostered routine testing regime to detect potential COVID-19 infections earlier, and necessary public health actions may be taken sooner, if required, so as to contain any COVID-19 transmissions at worksites;

¹ Refers to construction projects and Construction Supply Works which had obtained BCA’s approval to resume works in Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works.

Construction projects refer to those requiring Building Plan (BP) / Structural Plan (ST) or Temporary Building Permit (TBP) submission(s) to BCA and which the project had not obtained TOP(Full) or CSC(Full) status or Permit To Use (PTU).

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

² Please refer to BCA’s circular dated 17 June 2021 <<https://go.gov.sg/bca-circular-invitation-art-pilot>> and infographic dated 8 July 2021 <<https://go.gov.sg/bca-infog-art-vac>> for more details on piloting ART implementation at construction worksites and construction supply work premises

- b. Segregate foreign workers residing at dormitories by project, preferably by the project sites they are deployed at, in as few accommodations as possible, to reduce intermixing and possible cross-infection of workers deployed to work at different projects across different accommodations;
- c. Where feasible, plan for workers / visitors who operate for short durations at worksites and who may visit multiple sites (e.g. roving sub-contractors, deliverers, service providers) to carry out their site visits and tasks outside the work hours of the main workforce (i.e. at night, on weekends or before work commences);
- d. Roving sub-contractors performing construction work at worksites should be working in a segregated zone, at least 2m from other segregated teams of workers on site;
- e. Deliveries loading / unloading should be carried out by on-site workers and not delivery personnel, where possible. Should contactless delivery and invoicing be unavailable, permitted enterprises should consider other alternatives to receive goods to avoid physical contact (e.g. having a box/ tray where delivery personnel can drop off the goods/invoices); and
- f. In view of the current COVID-19 situation, Qualified Persons (Supervision) may, as a temporary measure, review the site supervision requirements for projects under their purview, and consider adopting remote supervision of building works, where suitable.

Additional Requirement - SMO/SDO to Monitor Unvaccinated Persons on Site from 16 August 2021

- 5. With effect from 16 August 2021, permitted enterprises will be required to:

- a. check the vaccination status of a person before permitting the person to enter into a worksite;
 - b. ensure that a person who has not completed his / her vaccination against COVID-19 or a person whose vaccination has not taken effect (collectively “**unvaccinated persons**”) shall wear a unique visual identifier at all times when they are at the worksite; and
 - c. ensure that a SMO / SDO closely supervises unvaccinated persons at all times when they are at the worksite so as to ensure unvaccinated persons comply with safe management measures.
6. These requirements are consistent with measures which the industry has been practising, where workers/visitors wear unique visual identifiers e.g. coloured vests, while on site, especially those who operate for short durations at the site and those who may visit multiple sites (e.g. roving sub-contractors, deliverers, service providers). All these measures allow the Safe Management Officer/Safe Distancing Officer to efficiently supervise the workers/visitors to ensure compliance with worksite SMM, including during breaks or swab testing and to reduce inter-mixing between groups at worksites.

Working Together and Keeping Safe

7. During this period of heightened alert, 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 work progress. Let us keep our worksites safe together.
8. Please disseminate the contents of the circular to your members.
9. 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.

10. Thank you.

Yours faithfully

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for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

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