

1 Oct 2012

All Site Investigation Contractors  
All Professional Engineers

Cc: Main Contractors and other interested parties  
(See Distribution List)

### **BCA and GeoSS JOINT CIRCULAR - Accreditation scheme for site investigation firms in Singapore**

Site investigation plays an important role in providing information for understanding the engineering properties of soils and rocks. Qualified Persons rely on such information to design foundation for buildings, underground structures and tunnels. Therefore, it is essential that site investigation works are carried to the highest standard and accurate information is obtained that can reflect the actual soil conditions at the site.

2. In recognition of the importance of site investigation works, BCA's licensing scheme for specialist builders, which was implemented in Dec 08, requires site investigation firms carrying out site investigation to be licensed as specialist builders. To further enhance the competency and professionalism of the site investigation firms, the GEOSS, BCA and LTA in collaboration with the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC) officially launched an accreditation scheme (under the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies for Site Investigation Scheme) for site investigation firms in Singapore on 10 May 2012. This accreditation scheme aims to enhance the quality and standard of site investigation practices in Singapore.

3. We therefore strongly encourage all site investigation firms to apply and join the accreditation scheme. The scheme will help to maintain the quality management system and technical competencies of the firms, and hence enhance the users confidence. In addition, it can help facilitate trade and market access to regional or international market.

4. BCA is studying the need to require specialist licensed builders for site investigation work to be accredited under SAC's Accreditation of Inspection Bodies for Site Investigation Scheme as one of the requirements for renewal of their license. If feasible, this can take effect from 1 Jul 2014.

5. For details of the SAC's Accreditation of Inspection Bodies for Site Investigation Scheme, you may refer to <http://www.sac-accreditation.gov.sg/documents.asp>. If you need further clarification, you may email to [geoss@nus.edu.sg](mailto:geoss@nus.edu.sg) or [Poh\\_Teoh\\_Yaw@bca.gov.sg](mailto:Poh_Teoh_Yaw@bca.gov.sg).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chew Keat Chuan'.

CHEW KEAT CHUAN  
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chua Tong Seng'.

CHUA TONG SENG  
GEOSS

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