

Our Ref : BCA BC 15.0.3 VOL 11

Building Engineering Division (#05-00)

Fax : 6325 7482

DID : 6325 7585

E-mail : Chew_Keat_Chuan@bca.gov.sg

26 Sep 2008

See **Distribution**

Dear Sir/Madam

COMMENCEMENT OF PROVISIONS ON UNDERGROUND BUILDING WORKS, TEMPORARY BRIDGES AND TEMPORARY EARTH-RETAINING STRUCTURES

I refer you to our earlier circulars dated 28 Nov 2007 and 7 May 2008 to notify that the following provisions in the Building Control Act will commence on 1 Oct 2008:

- (a) requirements for QP(Geo) and AC(Geo) for Underground Building Works; and
- (b) temporary structures (namely temporary bridge, temporary decking for a bridge or temporary earth-retaining structures) to be submitted for plan approval and permit.

Effective date for projects

2 I wish to remind you that the above provisions, which will come into effect on 1 Oct 08, will apply to all projects where the first structural submission for plan approval (i.e. the ST01 submission) is made on or after 1 Oct 08. All on-going projects where the ST01 submission is made before 1 Oct 08 will be regulated under the existing provisions and requirements.

Underground building works

3 Underground Building Works has been defined as any of the following works:

- (a) any excavation or other building works to make —
 - i) a tunnel with a diameter, width or height of more than 2 metres;
 - ii) a caisson, cofferdam, trench, ditch, shaft or well with a depth of more than 6 metres;
- (b) any building works for constructing, altering or repairing any earth retaining structure in or for a trench, ditch, shaft or well with a depth or height of more than 6 metres; or
- (c) foundation works for buildings of 30 or more storeys.

4 For underground building works, the geotechnical aspects have to be prepared by a Qualified Person who must be a specialist PE in geotechnical engineering [or PE(Geo) in short], and checked by a specialist accredited checker [or AC(Geo) in short].

Temporary structures

5 Currently, temporary bridges and temporary decking for a bridge are regulated under the permit for temporary buildings whilst temporary earth-retaining structures are regulated under the conditions of permit for building works. From 1 Oct 08, all temporary bridges, temporary decking for a bridge or temporary earth-retaining structures will be regulated in a similar manner as permanent building works. It means that a Qualified Person must be appointed to prepare and submit plans for approval by BCA and to supervise the construction of these structures.

6 Depending on the type of structure, checking by an accredited checker (AC) may also be necessary. The criteria on whether an AC is required and the category of AC required is similar to those for permanent works. The following Table summarises the requirements on AC checking for both temporary and permanent building works involving excavations.

All permanent or temporary building works that involve	Appointments Required	
	Qualified Person	Accredited Checker
Earth retaining structures of concrete or steel to support excavation not more than 1.5 m deep	Plan approval is not required	
Structures for excavation more than 1.5 m deep but not exceeding 4 m deep	Any professional engineer can act as the QP for structural works	No AC is required
Structures for excavation more than 4 m deep but not exceeding 6 m deep	Any professional engineer can act as the QP for structural works	AC to check structural works (which is also the existing procedure for permanent works)
Structures for excavation more than 6 m deep and all underground building works	Any professional engineer can act as QP for structural works, but if he is not a PE(Geo), then the geotechnical aspects of the works has to be prepared by another QP who is a PE(Geo)	AC to check structural works, but if he is not an AC(Geo), the geotechnical aspects of the works have to be checked by an AC(Geo)

Guidebook to explain details of the new provisions

7 Details and explanations on these provisions and other provisions introduced earlier this year can be found in a document called "A Guidebook to the Changes in Building Control Act & Regulations 2007/2008". The document may be viewed at BCA's website at the following url:

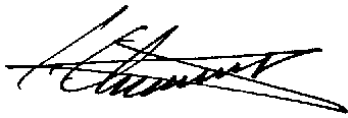
http://www.bca.gov.sg/Publications/BuildingControlAct/building_control_act.html

8 Should you need further clarifications, please contact Mr Choong Teck Min at Tel 63257587 or by email to: choong_teck_min@bca.gov.sg.

9 I shall appreciate it if you would bring the contents of this circular to your members' attention.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chew Keat Chuan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHEW KEAT CHUAN
Ag DIRECTOR
BUILDING ENGINEERING DIVISION
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

DISTRIBUTION (via e-mail):

President
Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)
70, Bukit Tinggi Road
Singapore 289758
iesnet@singnet.com.sg

President
Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore (ACES)
70, Palmer Road, #04-06
Palmer House
Singapore 079427
acesing@starhub.net.sg

President
Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore (REDAS)
190 Clemenceau Avenue
#07-01 Singapore Shopping Centre
Singapore 239924
enquiry@redas.com

President
Singapore Contractors Association Limited (SCAL)
Construction House
1 Bukit Merah Lane 2
Singapore 159760
enquiry@scal.com.sg

President
Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
79 Neil Road
Singapore 088904
info@sia.org.sg

President
Society of Project Managers (SPM)
Macpherson Road P.O.Box 1083
Singapore 913412
sprojm@yahoo.com

President
Singapore Institute of Building Limited (SIBL)
70 Palmer Road,
#03-09C Palmer House
Singapore 079427
josephine@sib.com.sg

President
Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuers (SISV)
20 Maxwell Road #10-09B
Maxwell House Singapore 069113
sisv.info@sisv.org.sg

President
Singapore Structural Steel Society (SSSS)
232a River Valley Road
Singapore 238290
avconsul@pacific.net.sg

President
Professional Engineers Board, Singapore (PEB)
1st Storey, Tower Block, MND Complex,
5 Maxwell Road
Singapore 069110
registrar@peb.gov.sg

President
Board of Architects (BOA)
5 Maxwell Road
1st Storey Tower Block, MND Complex,
Singapore 069110
boarch@singnet.com.sg

Director
Protective Infrastructure & Estate
Defence Science & Technology Agency
1 Depot Road #03-01j
Singapore 109679
lcheehio@dsta.gov.sg

Deputy Director
Project Development & Maintenance Branch
Ministry Of Education
1 North Buona Vista Drive
Office Tower Level 9
Singapore 138675
eng_wee_tong@moe.gov.sg

Director
Best Sourcing Department
Public Utilities Board
40 Scotts Road #18-01
Environment Building
Singapore 228231
moh_wung_hee@pub.gov.sg

Deputy Chief Executive
Infrastructure & Development
Land Transport Authority
1 Hampshire Road
Block 8 Level 1
Singapore 219428
bok_ngam_lim@lta.gov.sg

Deputy Director
Technology Development Section
Housing & Development Board
HDB Hub
480 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh
Singapore 310480
ckc3@hdb.gov.sg

Director
Engineering Planning Group
JTC Corporation
The JTC Summit
8 Jurong Town Hall Road
Singapore 609434
giokhua@jtc.gov.sg

Director
Building
People's Association
9 Stadium Link
Singapore 397750
foo_soon_leng@pa.gov.sg

All CORENET e-Info subscribers