

An MND Statutory Board

12 May 2021

For enquiries, please contact:
Audit and Inspection Group
Tel: 1800 3425 222 (1800-DIAL-BCA)
or use our Online Feedback Form at:
https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/

Dear Sir / Madam

### REMINDER TO INDUSTRY ON MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 RISK AT WORKSITES

# **Objective**

- 1. This circular reminds and informs the industry of the following: –
- (a) Importance of Safe Management Measures (SMM) at worksites and Rostered Routine Testing (RRT);
- (b) [From 17 May 2021] Submission of daily worksite entry records through FormSG at <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-builder-daily-report">https://go.gov.sg/bca-builder-daily-report</a>;
- (c) [From 17 May 2021] Implementation of TraceTogether-only SafeEntry (TT-only SE) at worksites; and
- (d) [From 1 June 2021] Discontinuation of COVID-Safe Training for Workers

### **Current Requirements and Good Practices at Worksites**

2. The recent COVID-positive cases are a timely reminder for the industry to remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. Under the current COVID-Safe Restart Criteria<sup>1</sup>, safe management officers (SMOs) are required to ensure safe distancing measures are implemented and all persons at the sites including delivery personnel to comply with such measures. Industry is reminded to ensure the following conditions are complied with:



Details can be found in <a href="http://www1.bca.gov.sg/docs/default-source/bca-restart/covid-safe-restart-criteria.pdf">http://www1.bca.gov.sg/docs/default-source/bca-restart/covid-safe-restart-criteria.pdf</a>.

- Temperature and details of all personnel should be taken at the entrance. Only personnel who do not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should be allowed into the site.
- ii. Check the AccessCode colour of all workers using SafeEntry check-in and only allow AccessCode "Green" workers to enter the worksite.
- iii. Work towards housing the foreign workers together by project, minimally by employer (preferably by the project sites they are deployed at) in as few accommodations as possible. This would help to reduce the intermixing and cross infection of workers of different projects across different accommodation.
- iv. Workers should be grouped and segregated according to their place of residence, trade and building operation or activity to reduce physical interaction between the workers in the different segregated teams. Workers from different segregated teams must be at least two (2) metres apart to reduce intermixing and cross infection of workers in different segregated teams.
- v. Deliveries should be scheduled in a staggered manner and any interaction kept minimal. Delivery personnel, including drivers and (e.g. crane, excavator) operators shall stay within the vehicle/cabin and communicate with workers through digital devices. Meals are to be taken within the vehicle.
- 3. In addition to complying with the SMM requirements at worksite, employers should also ensure that their workers attend their regular RRT to help in the early detection of COVID-19 cases. More information on RRT requirements for various job roles is available on the BCA website for further clarification (**Annex A**).
- 4. We take a serious view of any breach in COVID-19 regulations as it is important in reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission at worksites. Since last year, BCA has been conducting regular inspections for more than 5,000 worksites and had taken enforcement actions against 150 worksites due to breaches found. One of the common inadequacies in SMMs observed by BCA's Safety Inspectors include projects allowing AccessCode "Red" workers to work on site. Allowing AccessCode "Red" workers to work on site would potentially expose other workers to risk of COVID transmission.

## Submission of Daily Worksite Entry Records through FormSG from 17 May 2021

5. Builders have to maintain records of worksite personnel for contact tracing purposes. In April 2021, we removed the requirement for the industry to submit the records daily. However, in view of the latest COVID-19 situation, we seek the cooperation of builders to submit a simplified daily worksite entry report through FormSG at <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-builder-daily-report">https://go.gov.sg/bca-builder-daily-report</a> starting from 17 May 2021. This is necessary to complement the existing efforts in contact tracing and to allow us to act swiftly to contain the situation.



## Implementation of TraceTogether (TT)-only SafeEntry (SE) from 17 May 2021

- 6. On 4 May 2021, SNDGO has announced that the nationwide implementation of TT-only SE will be brought forward to 17 May 2021. To align with the national direction, SE check-in at all worksites must be performed using a TT App or TT/BluePass (BP) Token by:
  - Displaying one's TT/BP Token so that a site staff can scan the TT/BP Token's QR code;
  - ii. Tapping one's TT App or TT/BP Token at a mobile device with the SafeEntry Gateway (SEGW) function, by downloading/upgrading the SafeEntry (Business) App to the latest version. The SEGW Box is meant for public facing businesses and is not required at worksites. More details on SEGW can be found on SafeEntry website at <a href="https://www.safeentry.gov.sg/tracetogether-only-safeentry">https://www.safeentry.gov.sg/tracetogether-only-safeentry</a>.
- 7. To help ease the transition, scanning of barcodes on personal IDs will be retained until 31 May 2021. More information on TT-only SE can be found on SNDGO website at https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/whats-new/press-releases.

# Discontinuation of COVID-Safe Training for Workers from 1 June 2021<sup>2</sup>

8. With effect from 1 June 2021, it will not be necessary for employees to attend and pass the mandatory training (COVID-Safe Training for Workers supporting the Built Environment Sector). Those who have applied for the course will be required to complete and pass the course by 10 June 2021. Notwithstanding this, the relevant COVID-safe training contents and knowledge will be covered under the Apply Workplace Safety and Health (AWSH) in Construction Sites Course, previously known as the Construction Safety Orientation Course (CSOC) for all new workers from 1 June 2021.

## Working Together and Keeping Safe

9. All site personnel must continue to adopt good hygiene practices and see a doctor immediately if feeling unwell. As advised by MOH, vaccination remains a key enabler to reduce the risks of community transmission and we therefore encourage all to be vaccinated when it is offered to you and your employees.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Please note that Safe Management Officers (SMOs) and Safe Distancing Officers (SDOs) are still required to attend the Safe Management Officers course for the construction sector (more information available at www.bcaa.edu.sg/BESafe).

10. We seek the cooperation of the industry to work together to prevent any resurgence of COVID-19 cases that may bring about a tightening of SMM. Let's keep our worksites safe together.

### Clarification

11. Please disseminate the contents of this circular to your members. If you need any clarification, please submit your enquiry through BCA's Online Feedback Form at <a href="https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/">https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/</a>. Thank you.

Yours faithfully

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**GROUP DIRECTOR** 

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for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

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### Annex A

#### Table 1: Summary on Swab Test Requirements [Updated on 7 April 2021]

Approval to restart: To meet the COVID-Safe restart criteria (https://go.gov.sg/boa-restart-criteria), the Main Contractors and Supply Work Owners need to include all personnel, construction and non-construction workers who are working /visiting construction sites<sup>24</sup> and supply premises, via <a href="https://go.gov.sg/boa-construction-supply">https://go.gov.sg/boa-construction-supply</a> to BCA for approval.

Swab test: Employers are required to make appointments for their workers' Rostered Routine Test (RRT) to resume work. When submitting details of personnel who are working //isiting construction sites<sup>25</sup> and supply premises to BCA for approval, employers can at the same time make appointments for these personnel to attend RRT through the online Swab Registration System (SRS) at <a href="https://swab.hpb.gov.sg/ext/login.aspx">https://swab.hpb.gov.sg/ext/login.aspx</a>. Workers who missed their RRT will have their AccessCode status turned red and cannot be deployed to work.

	Activities			
Workforce	Working at/visiting construction sites¹ (includes personnel doing site maintenance, site safety, vector control, instrumentation & monitoring (I&M), inspectors, etc. Refer to "Clarity on RRT Requirements" table for more details)	Not working at construction sites <sup>1</sup> (Construction Account Workers doing renovation works, facilities management and Lift & Escalator works, etc.)	Company Corporate Office Premises	
(A) Singapore Citizens/ Permanent Residents/Employment Pass holders	RRT is required  For sites where construction work has not resumed, workers involved in site maintenance, site safety, vector control & I&M, pre-construction site activities are NOT required to undergo RRT until work resumes.	Not required to undergo RRT	Not required to	
(B) \$ Pass, Work Permit holders residing in non-dormitories, (e.g. HDB, private residential premises, etc)	RRT is required  For sites where construction work has not resumed, workers (even a very small workforce) involved in site maintenance, site safety, vector control & I&M, pre-construction site activities are <u>required</u> to undergo RRT.	RRT is required	undergo RRT	
(C) S Pass, Work Permit holders residing in dormitories (e.g. purposed built doms, factory converted dorms, construction temporary quarters, temporary living quarters, etc.)	RRT is required			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Construction sites includes "Construction Projects" and "Supply Works" as listed under Table 1 of BCA's advisory dated 25 May, and building works for landed properties and insignificant building works (IBW) within a Construction Project

#### Table 2: Clarity on RRT Requirements [Added on 9 September]

The table below provides clarity on the various job roles that require or do not require to undergo RRT. Please note that builders/companies will still need to meet the COVID-Safe restart criteria and observe Safe Management Measures.

S/N	Job role with examples	RRT Requirements	Additional Conditions to be met
1	Developers' / Consultants' Rep who are SC/PR/EP holders not stationed on-site or visitors to the construction site. For example:  Management level reps of developers and consultants not stationed on-site  Homeowners of residential landed properties  Foreign delegates	Not required to undergo RRT provided they meet ALL the additional conditions stated	No or minimal physical contact with on-site personnel No usage of on-site facilities, e.g. toilets Duration of each visit is less than 2 hours Visit construction site only once a month or less frequent (may visit different sites but not more than one site per month) To be accompanied by Safe Distancing Officers when on-site
2	Drivers who are SC/PR/EP/non-construction account foreign workers and are not staying in dormitories and transporting non-construction material supplies. For example:  • Waste refuse collectors (excluding sanitary waste disposal personnel)  • F&B drivers	Not required to undergo RRT provided they meet ALL the additional conditions stated	No physical contact arrangement with onsite personnel while the drivers are at the site. Manage strict SMM and contactless deliveries/collection No usage of on-site facilities, e.g. toilets Duration of each visit is less than 1 hour To be accompanied by Safe Distancing Officers when on-site
3	Drivers (SC/PR/EP/non-construction account foreign workers) who are not staying in dormitories and transporting construction material supplies, sanitary waste and foreign workers.  Examples of construction material supplies are:  Ready-mixed concrete  Steel reinforcements  Precast components	RRT is required	N/A
4	Inspectors who are stationed on-site or off-site. For example:  Inspectors from government agencies  Assessors (e.g. QC / ISO) / Resident Engineers (REs) / Resident Technical Officers (RTOs)  Safety Officers	RRT is required	N/A
5	Other on-site personnel. For example:  Security personnel Full time on-site cleaners Full time on-site canteen operators Site admin clerks Maintenance crew (e.g. pest control)	RRT is required	N/A

