

Updated on 25 April 2022

## **STREAMLINING OF COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR**

1 As we continue to transit to a COVID-19 resilient nation, and in line with the national move to simplify and rationalise COVID-19 rules, we will be streamlining the COVID-19 requirements for the Construction Sector.

### **Safe Management Measures (SMM) Streamlining in the Construction Sector**

2 With effect from 15 March 2022, BCA will be removing all sectoral COVID-19 rules for the Construction Sector. With this, all COVID-19 workplace requirements for the Construction Sector will be set out in the Workplace Safety and Health (COVID-19 Safe Workplace) Regulations 2021 (hereon, “WSH Regulations”). The WSH Regulations is currently the key legislation setting out requirements regarding Workplace Access, Workforce Vaccination and Workplace SMM, which includes SMM requirements for all workplaces including construction worksites and supply works premises.

**3 In other words, from 15 March 2022, construction worksites and supply works premises will be subject to the same SMM requirements that apply to any other workplace regulated under the WSH Regulations, with no additional sectoral requirements imposed.**

4 Under the WSH Regulations, occupiers of premises and employers (e.g. main contractors and subcontractors performing work at construction worksites, supply works premise owners etc.) should take reasonably practicable steps to establish and apply appropriate procedures and adequate controls to ensure their workers comply with the WSH Regulations, including the following:

(Updated on 25 April 2022)

- Ensure workers/employees follow the MOH Health Protocols when they are infected with COVID-19; and
- Mask wearing is optional in non open-air workplaces if employees are in a static position in an area not used by customers, not interacting with others/customers. Employees are encouraged to wear masks when in doubt.

5 Following the streamlining, the SMMs below are no longer required but we strongly encourage all occupiers of premises and employers to continue to apply these pre-existing SMMs as part of a good practice to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission at worksites:

(Updated on 25 April 2022)

- Staggered use of shared facilities;
- Allocation of zones and use of visual identifiers for workers in different zones;
- Cleaning and disinfection for areas visited by C+/Ag+ cases;
- Cohorting workers/employees from different employers; and
- Providing dedicated transport and staggered pick up and drop off for workers/employees
- Group size limit and safe distancing between employees at construction sites

6 (Updated on 25 April 2022) Following MTF's announcement, the use of Tracetogether and SafeEntry is no longer required at worksites from 26 April onwards. In tandem with the lifting of vaccination differentiated safe management measures, restrictions on unvaccinated persons would also be lifted and they will be able to enter worksites.

7 Please refer to the [WSH regulations](#) and [MOM circular](#) for more details on the SMM requirements.

8 In addition, with effect from 15 March 2022, construction companies will no longer need to apply to BCA for approval of resumption and/or commencement of works and deployment of personnel to construction worksites and supply works premises (i.e.

Restart Applications). Instead, all companies in the Construction Sector with SSIC Codes starting with 41 to 43, will be issued a blanket approval by MTI to carry out works, and such approval will be published on [MTI's website](#). This will allow all construction worksite activities to start once the requisite permits (e.g. permit to commence structural works) and approvals have been obtained from the Commissioner of Building Control, similar to pre-COVID times.

9 BCA's COVID-19 Safe Restart Criteria and Conditions of Approval for Restart (collectively "Restart Criteria") will also be completely removed, and the Construction Sector, including companies who received BCA's approval of Restart Applications before 15 March 2022, will no longer need to comply with the Restart Criteria with effect from 15 March 2022.

## **Conclusion**

10 We seek your cooperation to comply with the WSH Regulations and community COVID-19 Regulations in continuing to keep our worksites safe. Firms are also strongly encouraged to implement Business Continuity Plans to minimise disruption to business operations in the event of any future COVID-19 outbreaks.

11 As Singapore transits to a COVID-19 resilient nation, we hope that the streamlining will boost the progress of construction activities and that construction output at industry level will recover to pre-COVID levels.

## **Clarifications**

12 For queries on WSH Regulations, you may contact MOM at [www.mom.gov.sg/efeedback](http://www.mom.gov.sg/efeedback).

13 For clarification on this circular, please direct your queries to <http://bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/>. Please visit BCA's COVID-19 webpage ([www1.bca.gov.sg/COVID-19](http://www1.bca.gov.sg/COVID-19)) and subscribe to BCA's telegram channel (<http://t.me/BCASingapore>) for latest updates.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Lim  
Group Director  
Audit and Inspection Group  
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## FAQs

**1. Do I still need to submit my C+/Ag+ results to BCA?**

No, employers and owners of premises do not need to submit the results to BCA. However, employees should still inform their employers or owners of premises (i.e. worksite builder) if there are any C+ or Ag+ cases.

**2. Do I still need any Safe Management Officer (SMO) or Safe Distancing Officer (SDO) at site?**

There is no need for SDOs, but there should at least be 1 SMO at each worksite.

**3. Do I still need to attend the SMO/SDO course?**

No, the courses for SMO and SDO are no longer relevant.

**4. (Updated on 25 April 2022) Is safe distancing required?**

No, safe distancing will no longer be required between individual at worksites. There is also no limit on the group size

**5. (Updated on 25 April 2022) Do I still need to have Safe Entry system installed at site?**

No, the requirement of having tracetogether and SafeEntry at worksites will be removed from 26 April onwards

**6. There is no longer the need to apply to BCA for approval of resumption and/or commencement of works and deployment of personnel to construction worksites so will my workers' Accesscode in SGWorkPass still show "Approved to Start Work"?**

Your workers' Accesscode in SGWorkPass will still show "Approved to Start Work" and stay green for this indicator even though there is no need to apply to BCA for approval of resumption of works.

**7. Do I need to provide dedicated transport for my workers between their place of residence and worksite?**

Dedicated transport between worksite and place of residence and vice versa will not be required.

**8. Do I need to cohort my workers in dormitories?**

Cohorting of workers by employers/projects will not be required but employers should continue to implement good segregation and housing practices as part of your Business Continuity Plan.

**9. (Updated on 25 April 2022) Do I still need to wear a mask at my worksite?**

Venue	Is Mask Wearing Required?
Open-air areas at worksites	Optional
Non open-air workplaces	Optional if employees are in a static position in an area not used by customers, and are not interacting with

	others. When in doubt, employees are encouraged to wear masks.
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## 10. Is my worksite considered an open-air area?

An open-air area is defined under COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 as:

- a) an area, or any part of a deck of a vessel, lorry or bus, which is not covered by any roof or roof-like structure, permanent or otherwise; or
- b) any area as follows that is under a permanent or temporary roof or roof-like structure overhead:
  - i. a public path (as defined by the Active Mobility Act 2017), but not an underpass;
  - ii. an area that is substantially not enclosed by any structure, barrier or other device (whether fixed or moveable, opened or closed) that prevents or impedes lateral airflow to and from the area, regardless if the roof or roof-like structure is immediately capable or convertible to provide shelter against rain or water or the wind to people below the structure;

In consultation with MOM, the following (non-exhaustive) may be considered an open-air area in a construction worksite:

1. The area under a cantilever roof with no sides.
2. The area under an awning, or a retractable canopy, with no sides.
3. Buildings or rooms with only walls constructed, without roof or shelters.