COVID-19 (Temporary Measures)
(Amendments No.3) Act:
Additional Relief Measures for
Built Environment Sector

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### **AGENDA**



- Background on COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act ("COTMA")
- Amendment No. 3 to the COTMA
  - 1) Part 8A Extension of Time for Construction Contracts
  - 2) Part 8B Temporary Measures for Cost-Sharing in Construction Contracts
- Frequently Asked Questions



### Background

### Impact of COVID-19

Many individuals and businesses have been unable to perform contractual obligations because of COVID-19 and the resulting safe management measures

E.g. construction projects delayed due to circuit breakers and subsequent workers availability

### **Purpose of COTMA**

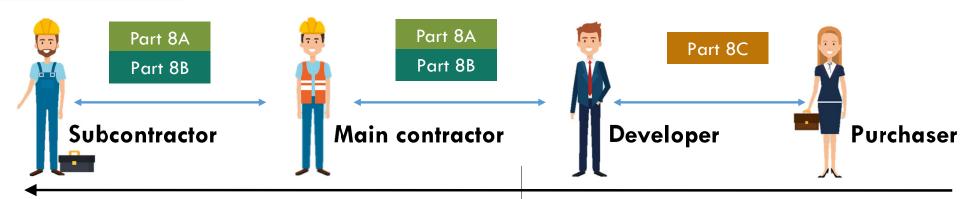
- ✓ Provides temporary reliefs for those who are unable to perform certain types of contracts because of COVID-19
- ✓ Ensures that no single stakeholder bears an undue share of the burden imposed by COVID-19

Note: COTMA is a legislation → applies to both public and private sector projects





### BE Stakeholders supported under Amendment No. 3



#### Part 8A

Universal Extension of Time (EOT) of 122 days for construction contracts

#### Part 8B

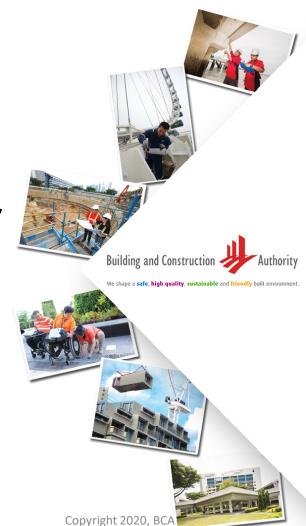
Cost-sharing of non-manpower-related qualifying costs

#### Part 8C

Extension to date of delivery of vacant possession in agreements for the sale and purchase of housing, commercial and industrial property

Note: Part 8C is not in operation yet, details will be announced by MND/URA

# Part 8A – Extension of Time for Construction Contracts





### **Rationale for Universal EOT**

- While most construction contracts have EOT provisions, COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented and treatment of EOT requests vary across projects
- Substantiating and assessing EOT requests could involve disputes among contracting parties and administrators, which is not helpful when the industry is looking to recover
- Relief measure will give contractors more time to complete projects, allow consistency in treatment across all affected construction contracts and provide certainty
   & assurance to the industry as they restart their projects
- Initiative already established for public sector projects in Sep 2020, extended to all construction contracts through Part 8A





### What contract does it apply to?

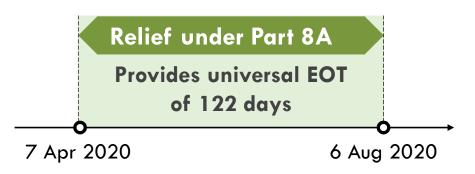
All construction works defined under the Building & Construction Industry Security of Payment Act ("SOP Act") in construction contracts (including subcontracts):

- ✓ entered into before 25 Mar 2020
- √ where construction works have not been certified to be completed as at 7 Apr 2020
- √ remains in force on 2 Nov 2020
- Except: contracts where construction works have been carried out between 20 Apr and 30 Jun 2020
- X Not related to: Date of BCA's approval to Restart, site possession date





#### How does it work?



- Contract completion date is extended automatically
- No application / request or filing of Notice is required
- No supplementary agreement is required

#### **Need longer EOT?**

- To rely on the existing contract provisions and amicable arrangement with client
- Serve a **Notification for Relief as a defence under COTMA Part 2 Section 6** → to disregard any liquidated damages (LDs) payable due to delays sustained from 1 Feb 2020 to 31 Mar 2021 <a href="http://www.mlaw.gov.sg/covid19-relief">http://www.mlaw.gov.sg/covid19-relief</a>



### **Self-Checklist for Eligibility**

Available under item 2.2 of the Part 8A and Part 8B Guide

https://go.gov.sg/bca-guide-cotma-8a-8b



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Basic Checklist on Eligibility Criteria under Part 8A:

- This is a construction contract where one party undertakes to carry out 'construction works' (as defined in section 3(1) of the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act ("SOPA")) for another party;
- This contract was entered into before 25 March 2020 (excluding construction contracts that were renewed other than automatically on or after 25 March 2020);
- There were construction works that were not certified to be completed under the construction contracts as at 7 April 2020;
- This contract remained in force on 2 November 2020:
- NO construction works were carried out at any time between 20 April 2020 and 30 June 2020 (both dates inclusive);
- NO proceedings before a court or arbitration have commenced before 2 November 2020 in relation to a failure to comply with the completion date ("Proceedings"); and
- NO judgment, award, compromise or settlement has been made before 2
   November 2020 in the course or as a result of the Proceedings.

Note: This checklist is designed to assist the user in making a quick assessment as to whether the case is one to which Part 8A applies. It does not go into details and does not cover all situations.



### Example - Delay > 122 days

refer to Example 2 in Part 8A and Part 8B Guide

#### Scenario: Party D engaged Party C to carry out construction works

- Contract was entered into on 15 Jan 2019 & expected to complete on 31 Dec 2020
- As at 7 Apr 2020, construction works were not certified to be completed (still 60% remaining)
- As at 2 Nov 2020, contract was in force
- Construction works resumed on 7 Aug 2020 and certified completed on 30 Sep 2020

Contract meets criteria for Part 8A relief

#### Due to COVID-19, Party C suffered:

- 122 days of delay from 7 Apr 2020 to 6 Aug 2020 due to Circuit Breaker and dormitory \* clearance;
- 15 days of delay due to delayed shipments from China before 7 Apr 2020; and
- 30 days of delay due to lower productivity resulting from SMM implemented at site after construction work resumed

#### **Applicable relief under Part 8A**

Automatic universal EOT of 122 days for delay between 7 Apr 2020 and 6 Aug 2020

#### Further EOT under existing contract

Party C will need to request for additional EOT under the contract for the remaining 15 days (before 7 Apr 2020) and 30 days (after 6 Aug 2020), in accordance with contract requirements



### Example – Project in Defects Liability Period

refer to Example 4 in Part 8A and Part 8B Guide

#### Scenario: Party H engaged Party G to carry out construction works

- Contract was entered into on 15 Jan 2019 & expected to complete on 30 Mar 2020
- As at 7 Apr 2020, construction works were not certified to be completed (still 10% remaining)
- Construction works resumed on 7 Aug 2020 and works certified completed on 30 Sep 2020
- As at 2 Nov 2020, contract was in force and entered into the Defects Liability / Rectification Period

Contract meets criteria for Part 8A relief

#### Due to COVID-19, Party G suffered:

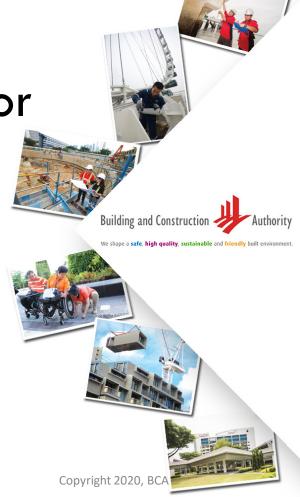
- 122 days of delay from 7 Apr 2020 to 6 Aug 2020 due to Circuit Breaker and dormitory clearance;
- Party G was not given EOT under the contract and did not apply for relief from liquidated damages (LD) under Part 2 of the Act; and
- Party H imposed LD for 184 days based on the delay from 30 Mar 2020 to 30 Sept 2020

#### **Applicable relief under Part 8A**

Contract completion extended by 122 days until 30 Jul 2020

As such, LD to be paid by Party G to Party H would be reduced by 122 days, from 184 days to 62 days

Part 8B – Temporary Measures for Cost-sharing in Construction Contracts





### **Rationale for Cost-Sharing**

- Contractors not entitled to claim for additional costs incurred arising from delay of works attributed to unforeseen events such as COVID-19 under most common contracts e.g. additional equipment rental costs due to delays arising from COVID-19
- Relief measure will require contractual parties to co-share the additional costs arising from COVID-19, which will help ensure that no stakeholder in the construction value chain bears an undue share of the burden caused by the pandemic
- Initiative already established for public sector projects in June 2020, extended to all construction contracts through Part 8B



### What contract does it apply to?

All construction works (public and private sector contracts including subcontracts) defined under the SOP Act in construction contracts:

- ✓ entered into before 25 Mar 2020
- ✓ where construction works have not been certified to be completed as at 7 Apr 2020
- ✓ remains in force on 2 Nov 2020
- Except: where the party engaging the contractor is an individual (e.g. residential or renovation contracts), unless the individual is acting as a sole proprietor





#### How does it work?



#### Contract to show inability thru claim template:

- (i) Contractor is unable to complete any of those construction works by the original completion date (i.e. extension under Part 8A not considered);
- (ii) Contractor's inability is to a material extent caused by a COVID-19 event; and
- (iii) As a result of contractor's inability, he incurred qualifying cost between 7 Apr 2020 and 31 Mar 2021

i.e. inability can be determined via different methods e.g. critical path analysis. EOT certified is not a pre-requisite.

**Quantum:** 50% of qualifying costs incurred, capped at 0.2% of contract sum per calendar month and total 1.8% of contract sum

#### How does it work?

#### **Qualifying costs:**

Plant or equipment	Site maintenance	Extension of Rent / fee for insurance & bonds storage in S'pore
e.g. rental of machines	e.g. vector control, utilities	e.g. premises to store materials or equipment

- Contractors are advised to include relevant information and documents with claim
- Refer to Section 39D(9) and common template at <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a> for further examples of qualifying costs

**Costs not claimable**: Manpower, acceleration, compliance to regulations e.g. SMM, other govt reliefs, relief under Part 2A or 8 of COTMA

#### Others:

- SOP Act Part III applies, i.e. enforceable as a payment claim under SOPA
- No requirement for separate agreement to effect Part 8B reliefs
- Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not applicable



### Example – Types of Qualifying Cost

refer to Example 7 in Part 8A and Part 8B Guide

#### Scenario: Developer (Party K) engaged main contractor (Party J) to carry out construction works

- Contract was entered into on 15 Jul 2019 & expected to complete on 31 Dec 2020
- As at 7 Apr 2020, construction works were not certified to be completed (still 40% remaining)
- As at 2 Nov 2020, contract was in force

#### Due to COVID-19:

- Party J was unable to complete the construction works by the completion date and suffered 122 days of delay from 7 Apr 2020 to 6 Aug 2020 due to Circuit Breaker and dormitory clearance
- Construction works resumed on 7 Aug 2020 but >50% of workers placed on 14-days SHN and Party J was unable to perform a substantial part of the works from 16 Aug 2020 to 29 Aug 2020 → unable to complete the works by completion date
- Party J incurred rental costs for the tower crane and will be required to extend the insurance coverage for the project in due course. Party J also needed to pay qualifying costs of \$X to their subcontractors.

Contract meets criteria for Part 8B relief

#### Applicable relief under Part 8B

Party J is entitled to claim from Party K for:

- qualifying costs incurred
- \$0.5X of qualifying costs paid to its subcontractors

arising from inability to perform works from 7 Apr 2020 to 6 Aug 2020, and the 14-day period after resuming work in Aug 2020



### Example - Interaction with Part 8 relief

refer to Example 8 in Part 8A and Part 8B Guide

Scenario: Main contractor (Party J) engaged subcontractor (Party I) to carry out construction works

- Contract was entered into on 15 Jan 2020 & expected to complete on 15 Nov 2020
- As at 7 Apr 2020, construction works were not certified to be completed (still 60% remaining)
- As at 2 Nov 2020, contract was in force

**Due to COVID-19,** Party I was unable to complete the construction works by the completion date and suffered:

- 122 days of delay from 7 Apr 2020 to 6 Aug 2020 due to Circuit Breaker and dormitory clearance
- 15 days of delay due to an inability to perform work at the same rate in the month of Aug 2020 due to SMM implemented at site, evident from the EOT granted by the Architect
- From 7 Apr 2020 to Aug 2020, Party I incurred costs for the rental of scissors lift meant for the construction works (a total of \$10,000 over the period from 7 April 2020 to end Aug)
- Party I obtained relief under Part 8 for an Assessor to reduce the rental costs charged by the supplier of the scissors lift to \$4,000

Contract meets criteria for Part 8B relief

#### Applicable relief under Part 8B

Party I is entitled to claim from Party J:

- in the sum of the reduced equipment rental cost (i.e. \$4,000 after deducting the relief obtained under Part 8)
- Party J would be obliged to co-share \$2,000

arising from inability from 7 Apr 2020 to 6 Aug 2020, plus 15 days after restarting work in Aug 2020



### Template for relief under Part 8B

### Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a>



1	A	В	С	D	E			
1	TEMPLATE - Claim for co-sharing of q	ualifying costs in construction contracts	under Part 8B of COVID-19 (Tem	porary Measures) Act 2020 ("Act	")	70		
2 Disclaimer: The purpose of this template is to facilitate parties to submit and assess claims under Part 8B of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act. While every effort has be								
3 Inputs in blue fonts below are examples of inputs for illustration only. Users are free to amend/adjust based on their claims.								
	Act ref	Project Info	Specified period 1	Specified period 2	Specified period 3	Specified pe		
4	Requirement under the Act		7 Apr 2020 to 30 Apr 2020	1 May 2020 to 31 May 2020	1 Jun 2020 to 30 Jun 2020	1 Jul 2020 to		
5	Unable to complete construction wo	rks by original completion date						
	Sect 39D(1)(a)	Input on eligbility ("Latest estimated			Elig	ible		
	Party B is unable to complete	completion date" has to be later than						
	construction works by completior							
6								
	original completion date before	Original contract completion date	15-May-22					
7	applying the extension granted	B						
8	under Part 8A)	Latest estimated completion date			30-Se	ep-22		
	Qualifying Costs							
	Sect 39D(1)(b)	Start date of the period in which B's	7-Apr-20	1-May-20	1-Jun-20			
	B's inability is to a material extent	inability to complete construction			007-0000-000-000-000			
	caused by a COVID-19 event	works by the completion date is to a						
	material extent caused by a COVID-1							
10		ovent						
	Eligibility Qualifyin	g costs +		: 4				



Eligibility

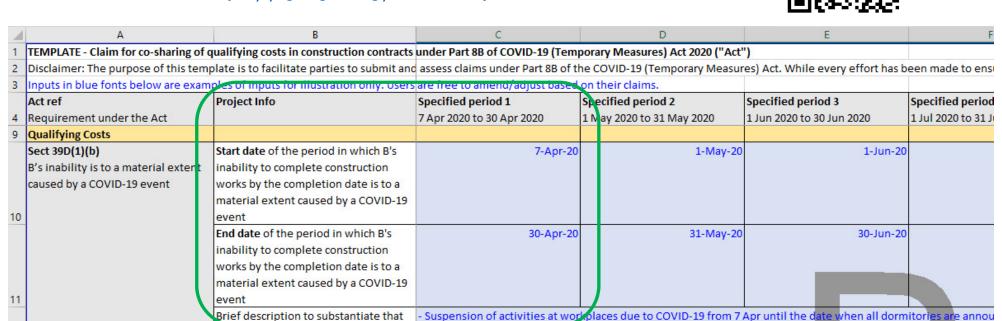
Qualifying costs

### Template for relief under Part 8B

#### Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a>

the inability is to a material extent caused by a COVID-19 event

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- Works only started with sufficient workers on site for structural works from 16 Aug 2020 onwards

1



### Template for relief under Part 8B

### Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a>

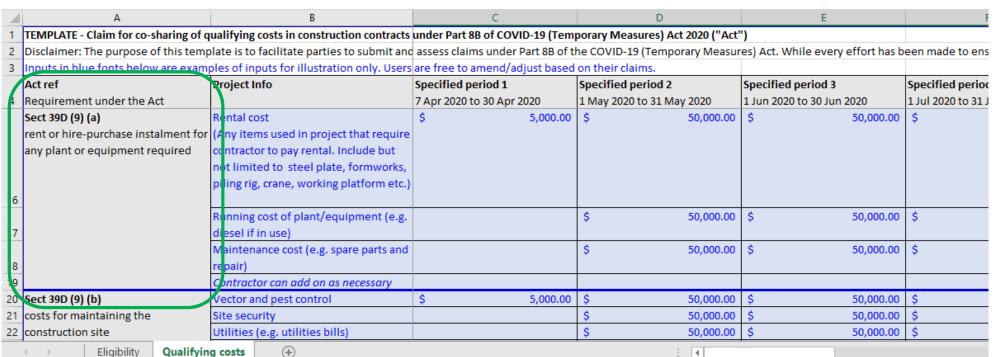


1	А	В	С	D	E	F				
1	TEMPLATE - Claim for co-sharing of qualifying costs in construction contracts under Part 8B of COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 ("Act")									
2	Disclaimer: The purpose of this template is to facilitate parties to submit and assess claims under Part 8B of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act. While every effort has been made to ens									
3	Inputs in blue fonts below are examples of inputs for illustration only. Users are free to amend/adjust based on their claims.									
	Act ref	Project Info	Specified period 1	Specified period 2	Specified period 3	Specified period				
4	Requirement under the Act		7 Apr 2020 to 30 Apr 2020	1 May 2020 to 31 May 2020	1 Jun 2020 to 30 Jun 2020	1 J Il 2020 to 31 J				
		Substantiating documents can be	-	-	Refer to BCA approval obtained	Re <sup>F</sup> er to revised				
		attached as Appendix with this claim			in Appendix xx	and critical path				
13		40000			6	Appendix x.				
	SO/Architect/Client's assessment on		Contractor has demonstrated in							
	start and end date of the period in		works for the specified period f							
		which B's inability to complete	material extent caused by a COVID-19 event							
	construction works by the completion									
		date is to a material extent caused by a								
14		COVID-19 event								
	Sect 39D(1) (3)	Qualifying cost incurred within the	From 07 Apr 2020 to 30 Apr	From 01 May 2020 to 31 May	From 01 Jun 2020 to 30 Jun	From 01-Jul-2020				
	qualifying costs must be pro-rated	specified period indicated in rows 10	2020	2020	2020					
	for each of those specified	and 11 needs to be pro-rated								
15	periods	20			8					
	Sect 39D (9) (a)	Rental cost	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$				
	Eligibility Qualifying costs   Gualifying costs									



### Template for relief under Part 8B

#### Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a>



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oct 39D (9) (c)

costs to extend the validity period of any insurance obtained and any

Eligibility

Qualifying costs

### Template for relief under Part 8B

\$

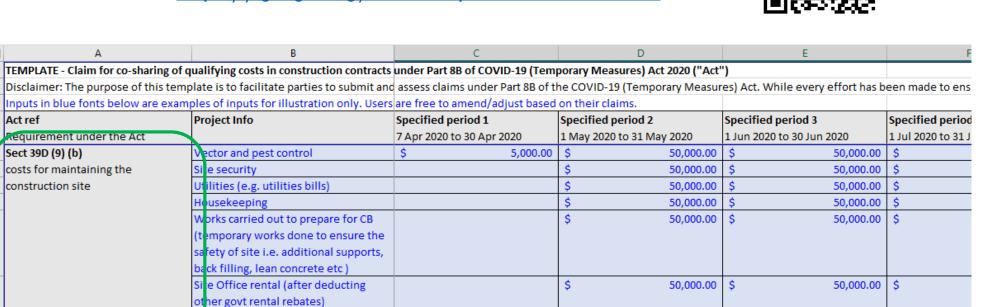
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#### Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a>

Contractor can add on as necessary

extension of project insurance

Extension of performance bonds



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50,000.00 \$

50,000.00 \$

4

50,000.00

50,000.00 \$



### Template for relief under Part 8B

### Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a>



	A	В	С	D	Е	F		
1	TEMPLATE - Claim for co-sharing of qualifying costs in construction contracts under Part 8B of COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 ("Act")							
2	Disclaimer: The purpose of this template is to facilitate parties to submit and assess claims under Part 8B of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act. While every effort has been							
3	Inputs in blue fonts below are examples of inputs for illustration only. Users are free to amend/adjust based on their claims.							
	Act ref	Project Info	Specified period 1	Specified period 2	Specified period 3	Specified period		
4	Requirement under the Act		7 Apr 2020 to 30 Apr 2020	1 May 2020 to 31 May 2020	1 Jun 2020 to 30 Jun 2020	1 Jul 2020 to 31 J		
	Sect 39D (9) (c)	extension of project insurance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$		
27	costs to extend the validity period	1				_		
	of any insurance obtained and any	Extension of performance bonds	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$		
28	performance bond	i i						
	Sect 39D (9) (d)	Storage costs in Singapore (for	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$		
-	rent or other fee for the use of	materials, equipment and fitting out						
29	premises in Singapore to store any	works)						
	materials or equipment	Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL)		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$		
		land rental (after deducting other govt						
30		rental rebates)						
31	Sect 39D (1) the lesser of the	Total qualifying costs	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 650,000.00	\$ 650,000.00	\$		
32	following amounts for each	50% of the total qualifying costs	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 325,000.00	\$ 325,000.00	\$		
33	specified period	Contract sum	\$ 100,000,000.00	\$ 100,000,000.00	\$ 100,000,000.00	\$		
34	(d) 50% of the total qualifying costs	0.2% of the contract sum	\$ 200.000.00	\$ 200.000.00	\$ 200.000.00	Ś		
	← → Eligibility Qualifyin	g costs +		: 4				



### Template for relief under Part 8B

### Please refer to <a href="https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b">https://go.gov.sg/bca-template-cotma-8a-8b</a>



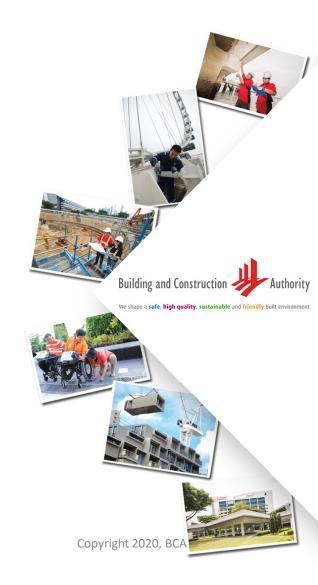
	А	В		С		D		Е	F
1	TEMPLATE - Claim for co-sharing of qualifying costs in construction contracts under Part 8B of COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 ("Act")								
2	Disclaimer: The purpose of this template is to facilitate parties to submit and assess claims under Part 8B of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act. While every effort has been made to en								
3	Inputs in blue fonts below are examples of inputs for illustration only. Users are free to amend/adjust based on their claims.								
	Act ref	Project Info	Speci	ified period 1	Spe	ecified period 2	Spec	cified period 3	Specified period
4	Requirement under the Act		7 Арг	2020 to 50 Apr 2020	1 N	May 2020 to 31 May 2020	1 Jun	n 2020 to 30 Jun 2020	1 Jul 2020 to 31 J
31	Sect 39D (1) the lesser of the	Total qualifying costs	\$	25,000.00	\$	650,000.00	\$	650,000.00	\$
32	following amounts for each	50% of the total qualifying costs	\$	12,500.00	\$	325,000.00	\$	325,000.00	\$
33	specified period	Contract sum	\$	100,000,000.00	\$	100,000,000.00	\$	100,000,000.00	\$
34	(d) 50% of the total qualifying costs	0.2% of the contract sum	\$	200,000.00	\$	200,000.00	\$	200,000.00	\$
	for anything done for	Qualifying costs for each specified	\$	12,500.00	\$	200,000.00	\$	200,000.00	\$
35	or provided to or enjoyed by B in	period							
	the specified period;	Total Qualifying costs	\$	850,833.33					
36	(e) 0.2% of the contract sum.								
37	Sect 39D (2) The total amount that B	1.8% of the contract sum	\$	1,800,000.00					
	may claim under subsection (1)	Total qualifying costs that B is entitled	\$	850,833.33					
	must not exceed 1.8% of the	to							
38	contract sum								
39	39								
40	40								
	← → Eligibility Qualifyin	Eligibility Qualifying costs +							



### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

Part 8A Part 8B COTMA applies to both public and private sector projects and subcontracts entered into before 25 Mar 2020 where contraction works have not been certified to be completed as Eligibility at 7 Apr 2020 remains in force on 2 Nov 2020 Works were carried out between Customer (client) is an individual 20 Apr and 30 Jun 2020 **Exception** Extended completion date of 122 Contractors need to make payment claims on the 'qualifying days will be treated as the new completion date costs' to the customer (clients) Relief

# Frequently Asked Questions





### Frequently asked questions

Can the contractor claim additional preliminaries for the extended time provided under Part 8A of the COTMA?

Relief under Part 8A of the COTMA is a statutory, and not a contractual, relief. The relief merely allows the contractor to:

- (i) treat the extended completion date as the contractual completion date; and
- (ii) extinguish any liability for the failure to complete.

Please check with the relevant stakeholders with regards to your other entitlements under the contract.



### Frequently asked questions

Do the reliefs apply if the project is in the Defects Liability Period / Rectification Period?

The reliefs will apply to construction contracts that remain in force on 2 November 2020, including constructions contracts under which construction works has been certified as completed and other contractual obligations are pending performance (such as contracts still within the rectification or defects liability period).

If the contract is not in force on 2 November 2020 (e.g. contracts having been terminated), the reliefs will not apply. This is to avoid affecting contracts that have been concluded.



### Frequently asked questions

Do the reliefs
apply if
contractor and
customer (client)
privately agreed
on a settlement
agreement?

Private settlements will not restrict the application of the reliefs. For example, if a developer has provided a 1-month EOT as private settlement (not arising from arbitral or court proceedings), the statutory relief of 122 days of EOT (less the EOT that had already been agreed) will still apply to the construction contract concerned notwithstanding the earlier private settlement.



### **REFERENCES**



https://www1.bca.gov.sg/COVID-19/support-measures-for-built-environment-sector-firms/



Briefing slides



For further queries, please use our online feedback form 'https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/'



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