COVID-Safe Restart Plan for Construction Sector

Webinar Series by BCA Academy



State of play since Circuit Breaker (CB)

- All construction works on site have stopped except:
 - Some critical infrastructure projects, those that support essential services or are necessary for public safety
 - Some projects subsequently stopped due to infection cases found
 - COVID-19 facilities new dorms, test labs, Community Care/Recovery Facilities, etc.
 - Essential works e.g. site security, vector control, etc., to upkeep non-operating sites
- Essential services for operational buildings have been ongoing
- Strict safe management measures in place, where works can continue

Our economy, like others, will have to restart progressively post-CB

"...But the rest of the economy will have to **open up step by step, and not all at once**. Some industries will open up earlier than others, and recover sooner..."

"Significant structural changes to our economy are likely. *Some industries will be disrupted permanently. Companies will have to change their business models to survive*..."

PM Lee Hsien Loong May Day Message 2020

"Easing on the measures prematurely and without proper safeguards can result in a second wave of transmission, and then force a second round of tightening...This has happened in other countries, and it reinforces the need for us to move cautiously."

Minister Lawrence Wong Ministerial Statement, 4 May 2020

In particular, the construction sector needs a careful and controlled restart, to avoid further outbreaks among FWs and the wider community

~94% of the COVID+ cases are FWs; ~78% of these are from construction

Epidemic Curve of the COVID-19 Outbreak by Press Release Date



Source: MOH situation report dated 31 May 2020

Imported

Phased approach in restarting construction works after CB ends

- On 15 May 2020, BCA announced that construction activities will gradually be allowed to resume from 2 June 2020
 - Projects that cannot be left idle for too long due to safety concerns, and critical and time-sensitive projects; previously suspended residential renovation works
- MTI will also allow businesses to resume activity in a phased manner from 2 June 2020
- All companies deploying construction account workers will require approval from BCA before they can restart, and must put in place adequate safe management measures. Those deploying services account workers will only require MTI's approval.

Phased approach in restarting construction works after CB ends

- Minimise risks of resurgence of infections/clusters on restart, to avoid work stoppage again
- COVID-Safe Restart Criteria to be in place and implemented for all projects

Phase 1	Phase 2	Pha	Phase 3	
1st group of projects resumes	Resumption to be assess time sensitivity and abili Crite	ity to meet Safe Restart	→ All other projects resume	
	COVID-Safe Restart Criteria to	be in place		
Workforce size to increase grad after CB (~10% total workforce i	•	orce allowed to work on s	site immediately	
FTED Pacir	ng of activities would depend on pans out over the next			

CB

COVID-Safe Restart Criteria

- Companies deploying construction account workers must comply with the
 - COVID-Safe Workforce
 - COVID-Safe Worker Accommodation/Transport criteria
 - MOM's Safe Management Measures for General Workplaces
- COVID-Safe rules are premised on the principle of cohorting workers to minimise cross-infections between different groups of workers

COVID-Safe Workforce	 Adopt a system to track health status of workers, including ensuring regular testing and surveillance (e.g. swabbing, waste-water testing) Manage workers' movements (e.g. only leave accommodation for work and purchase of necessities) Ensure workers attend training on their personal responsibilities
COVID-Safe Worker Accommodation/ Transport	 Reduce mixing of workers at places of accommodation (<i>e.g. cohorting of workers by employer, segregate from construction site workers</i>) Provide dedicated transport between worksites and accommodation

Preparing for the new normal



Thank you

