ADVISORY FOR A SAFE AND CONTROLLED RESTART OF THE PROCESS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE (PCM) SECTOR FROM 2 JUNE 2020

1. The Multi-Ministry Taskforce announced on 19 May 2020 that the Circuit Breaker measures will gradually ease from 2 June 2020. The PCM sector will be allowed to resume work in phases, but in a safe and controlled manner to minimise the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence.

2. Under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 ("COVID-19 Act") and the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 ("Control Order"), Process Construction and Process Maintenance activities which have been suspended during Circuit Breaker shall remain so even after 1 June 2020, until such time when approval from the Economic Development Board (EDB) on behalf of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is obtained for the relevant works to be restarted.

Essential Maintenance Activities

3. Companies previously approved by MTI during the Circuit Breaker to carry out essential process plant maintenance activities are allowed to continue without EDB's approval, subject to earlier approved manning levels. The works in this paragraph will be referred to as "**Earlier Permitted Activities**".

4. Previously approved companies must put in place safe management measures, in line with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM)'s latest advisories[1]. These safe management measures are necessary to minimise the risk of a resurgence of COVID-19 at work sites and at places of accommodation of foreign employees deployed to perform such work. PCM workers[2] performing **Earlier Permitted Activities** who work on production sites and/or live in dormitories will also be required to undergo regular swab tests from 2 June 2020.

5. Any increase in manning levels for maintenance activities will have to be graduated. Appeals will be considered on a case-by-case basis. PCM companies may apply jointly with the Energy & Chemicals (E&C)[3] plant owner at http://www.edb.gov.sg/en/contact/contact-us.html.

COVID-Safe Restart Criteria for Process Turnaround Maintenance and Process Construction Activities not Regulated under the Building Control Act

6. Companies looking to undertake: a) Process Turnaround Maintenance Activities requiring a full or partial shut down of plant equipment, as well as b) Process

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[1] https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/requirements-for-safe-management-measures

[2] PCM workers refer to employees of PCM companies, which are registered members of the Association of Process Industry (ASPRI).

[3] This refers to the Petroleum/Petrochemicals and other Chemicals manufacturing sector.

Construction Activities not regulated under the Building Control Act (collectively referred to as "**PCM Works**") are required to obtain EDB's approval on behalf of MTI, before deploying their employees.

7. E&C plant owners and PCM companies must comply with additional COVID-Safe Restart Criteria; i.e. COVID-Safe Workforce, COVID-Safe Worksite and COVID-Safe Accommodation and Transport, where relevant.

    (a) **COVID-Safe Workforce**: Employers must ensure that the following groups of PCM workers undergo regular swab tests:
        i.   PCM workers who work on the production site; and/or
        ii. PCM workers who stay in purpose-built dormitories, factory-converted dormitories, construction temporary quarters or temporary occupation licence quarters.

        Upon receiving companies' applications, EDB will inform eligible companies on the swab test arrangements. If any workers who are working are found to have missed regular testing, EDB reserves the right to withdraw any approval given for resumption of works. The Government had earlier announced that it would pay for the periodic swab test for the PCM sector, up to August 2020. The Government will now continue to bear the costs of COVID-19 testing for the PCM sector until 31 March 2021, to help ensure a safe restart.

    (b) **COVID-Safe Worksite:** The national digital check-in system SafeEntry must be deployed by E&C plant owners and PCM companies to record all entries and exits. Additional COVID-Safe Restart measures must be enforced at worksites to prevent major COVID-19 outbreaks. These include segregating workers at worksite to minimise interaction between different contractors/teams, and staggering the use of shared facilities. Safe Management Officers (SMOs) and/or Safe Distancing Officers (SDOs) are to be appointed as part of safe management measures at the worksite.

    (c) **COVID-Safe Worker Accommodation and Transport:** Employers are to segregate PCM workers by split teams that minimise interaction at their places of accommodation and provide dedicated transport for workers living in dormitories to and from their work sites, if workers are not residing at onsite accommodation.

8. It is essential for all companies along the value chain to cooperate and minimise the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence.

9. The full listing and details of the COVID-Safe Restart Criteria for E&C plant owners and PCM companies may be downloaded from MTI's GoBusiness portal (https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg).

Differentiated Approval Process

10. EDB will put in place a differentiated approval process for companies seeking to restart **PCM Works** and increase manning levels for **Earlier Permitted Activities** after 1 June 2020. Companies with Process Construction projects regulated under the Building Control Act are required to make application to the Building and Construction Authority (BCA). Please refer to **Table 1** for a summary of the application process for different types of works and companies.

11. For companies eligible for the resumption of **PCM works** from 2 June 2020, EDB will notify the respective companies of the application process during the week of 1 June 2020.

12. Companies which do not receive notification from EDB within the week of 1 June 2020 should expect to resume work at a later date.

Audit and Inspection

13. An Audit and Inspection regime will be implemented by MOM to check on the implementation of COVID-Safe management measures. E&C plant owners and PCM companies will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the measures and all prevailing legal and regulatory requirements, and for putting in place the procedures and COVID-Safe management plans or declaration checklists, approved by EDB on behalf of MTI.

Updates and Clarifications

14. There will be regular reviews of measures and requirements as the global and local COVID-19 situations evolve. You can refer to MTI's GoBusiness portal (https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg) for updates.

15. For foreign-owned enterprises and large local enterprises, please contact EDB at http://www.edb.gov.sg/en/contact/contact-us.html if you have any queries or require clarifications. All other local enterprises can contact Enterprise Singapore at https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/contact-us/ if you have any queries or require clarifications.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD,
ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Table 1: Summary of Application Processes for Work Resumption in the PCM Sector

Type of Works	Company Segment	Application needed?	Additional criteria to be met?
Works requiring Process Sector Work Permit or S-Pass Holders in connection with the **turnaround maintenance** or **construction of plant equipment** in the Petroleum/Petrochemicals and other Chemicals manufacturing sector, **not regulated under the Building Control Act.**	E&C Plant Owner	**Eligible companies will be notified by EDB during the week of 1 June 2020 to apply.**	COVID-Safe Worksite for E&C Plant Owners COVID-Safe Workforce for E&C Plant Owners
	PCM Company[4]	Companies will be notified by E&C plant owners to apply to EDB via the E&C plant owner for the project.	COVID-Safe Worksite for PCM Companies COVID-Safe Workforce for PCM Companies COVID-Safe Accommodation for PCM Companies COVID-Safe Transport for PCM Companies Required swab tests for PCM workers who work on production sites and/or live in dormitories.

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[4] This refers to registered members of the Association of Process Industry (ASPRI) that hire Process Sector Work Permit or S-Pass Holders.

Type of Works	Company Segment	Application needed?	Additional criteria to be met?
Works requiring Process Sector Work Permit or S-Pass Holders in connection with the **construction of plant equipment** in the Petroleum/Petrochemicals and other Chemicals manufacturing sector, **regulated under the Building Control Act**.	E&C Plant Owner	**Eligible companies will be notified by EDB during the week of 1 June 2020 to apply to BCA (as a joint application with the project's main contractor).**	BCA's Safe Restart advisory and criteria. Required swab tests based on Annex A in BCA's Safe Restart criteria.
	PCM Company	Companies will be notified by E&C plant owners to apply to BCA via the project's main contractor.	
Works requiring Process Sector Work Permit or S-Pass Holders in connection with the **regular maintenance** of plant equipment in the Petroleum/Petrochemicals and other Chemicals manufacturing sector.	PCM Company	**Earlier Permitted Activities can continue after 1 June 2020 without further approval**, subject to earlier approved manning levels. Any increase in manning levels for maintenance activities will have to be graduated. Appeals will be considered on a case-by-case basis. PCM companies should apply via MTI's GoBusiness portal (https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/), indicating details of plant owners/customers they are supporting. For requests to deploy foreign workers staying in dormitories, companies should verify that their workers are living in dormitories with COVID-19 free status <u>and</u> have COVID-19 free health status before filing an application.	MOM's Safe Management Measures[5] Required swab tests for PCM workers who work on production sites and/or live in dormitories.

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[5] https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/requirements-for-safe-management-measures