



MOM/OSHD/2024-01

2 Feb 2024

To: All firms registered in CRS, FM Registry, Suppliers Registry and PSPC consultants

(Sent via BCC)

ENHANCEMENT TO WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH REQUIREMENTS IN PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION-RELATED PROJECTS:

- (1) HARMONISED WSH REQUIREMENTS ACROSS PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS**
- (2) ENHANCED SAFETY-RELATED TENDER EVALUATION CRITERIA**
- (3) MEASURES TO INCENTIVISE GOOD WSH STANDARDS**

This circular informs the Built Environment sector of the enhancement to the Workplace Safety & Health (WSH) requirements for the procurement of construction services that shall take effect for construction and construction-related tenders called on and after **1 April 2024** (unless otherwise stated).

Background

2 The Multi-Agency Workplace Safety and Health Taskforce¹ (MAST) was set up in Oct 2022 to (a) identify sectoral strategies to improve the WSH performance and (b) strengthen sectoral engagements with companies to reinforce the importance of WSH. Under the guidance of MAST, BCA and MOM have been actively engaging industry stakeholders to develop targeted measures for the public sector to take the lead in raising the emphasis of safety for both the Main Contractors and all levels of Subcontractors. This would then strengthen WSH ownership and outcomes for the construction sector.

(1) Harmonised WSH Requirements Across Public Sector Projects

(1A) Extension of the Safety Disqualification (SDQ) Framework

3 To align the evaluation criteria and temporarily disqualify contractors with poor WSH performance from participating in public sector tenders, the SDQ Framework was

¹ The tripartite composition of MAST includes Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Health, Industry Leaders and the labour movement.

implemented from 1 Oct 2022. It was applied to the Main Contractors and their first level Subcontractors for public sector construction projects using the Price-Quality Method (PQM) – i.e. under the BCA Construction Workheads (CW01 & CW02) with an estimated construction cost ≥ \$3mil.

4 **Scope:** The SDQ Framework will be extended to public sector construction and construction related projects not using the PQM, in which the tenders are called under the BCA Construction² Workheads (CW01 & CW02) and Construction Related³ Workheads (ME & CR):

- a) For projects with estimated construction cost > \$90k to ≤ \$1mil.
The SDQ will be applicable to Main Contractors only; and
- b) For projects with estimated construction cost > \$1mil.
The SDQ will be applicable to Main Contractors and all levels of Subcontractors working in the project.

Table 1: Extension of the SDQ Framework

S/N	Details
At Tender Stage:	
1	<p>For projects > \$90k, Government agencies will conduct checks on whether the tenderers meet any of the SDQ criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Entry into MOM’s Business Under Surveillance programme (BUS)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has entered BUS within the 3 months prior to the Tender Closing Date⁴; or ii. Has entered BUS after the Tender Closing Date, but before the Tender Award Date (both dates inclusive); b) <u>Debarred by MOM from employing foreign employees due to the accumulation of 25 or more Demerit Points under MOM’s Demerit Point System</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Debarred under MOM’s Demerit Point System at the Tender Closing Date; or ii. Debarred under MOM’s Demerit Point System between the Tender Closing Date and Tender Award Date (both dates inclusive).
<p>Firms can refer to the <u>PQM Framework and Annex A</u> for more details.</p> <p>Firms can use MOM’s Checksafe eservice to check if the contractors meet any of the SDQ criteria above.</p>	
At Construction Stage:	
2	<p>For projects > \$1mil, Main Contractor is required to put in place a system to ensure SDQ enforcement across all levels of Subcontractors in the project. The firm will not</p>

² Refers to CW01-General Building and CW02-Civil Engineering workheads under BCA’s Contractors Registration System (CRS).

³ Refers to Mechanical & Electrical (ME) and Construction-Related (CR) workheads under BCA’s CRS.

⁴ Tender Closing Date refers to the first published tender closing date, regardless of subsequent extension.

S/N	Details
	<p>be allowed to be appointed as a Subcontractor if it meets either of the disqualifying criteria:</p> <p>a) Entered MOM's Business Under Surveillance (BUS) programme within the 3 months prior to date of Letter of Award issued by the Main Contractor/ Subcontractor to its Subcontractor/ next level of Subcontractor respectively; or</p> <p>b) Debarred by MOM from employing foreign employees due to the accrument of 25 or more Demerit Points under MOM's Demerit Point System as at the date of Letter of Award.</p>
3	For projects > \$1mil, Main Contractor is required to rectify any non-compliance to the SDQ framework, e.g. by removing any disqualified Subcontractor which has been appointed.

(1B) Include standardised safety requirements in Particular Conditions

6 Standardised safety requirements will also be included in the contract with Main Contractors in (i) identifying and implementing WSH trainings/ competencies specific to site activities to workers on site; (ii) exercising enhanced safety commitment, including periodic reporting of WSH performance, organising engagement sessions, and implementing improvement plans for poor-performing Subcontractors; and (iii) conduct risk assessments and ensure compliance by all Subcontractors. Refer to Table 2.

7 **Scope:** These requirements are applicable to public sector construction and construction related tenders under the BCA Construction Workheads (CW01 & CW02) and Construction Related Workheads (ME & CR) for projects > \$1mil.

Table 2: Standardised safety requirements

S/N	Details
At Tender Stage:	
1	For projects > \$1mil, agencies will include the standardised clauses on safety requirements to the contract between the agency and the main contractor. BCA will provide more details on the sample clauses in a separate circular.
At Construction Stage:	
2	For projects > \$1mil, Main Contractor is required to put in place a system to ensure compliance to the requirements across all levels of Subcontractors in the project. Firms can refer to <u>Annex A</u> for more details.

(2) Enhanced Safety-related Tender Evaluation Criteria

8 Currently, under the PQM framework (for construction tenders ≥ \$3mil under BCA Construction Workheads CW01 & CW02, the minimum weightage for safety-related criteria is at least 3% of the overall PQM score.

9 **Scope:** The enhancement to the safety-related criteria are as follows and in Table 3:

- a) For construction tenders using PQM: The minimum weightage will be raised to 15% of Quality weightage or 5% of the overall PQM score, whichever is higher. This is to further differentiate potential tenderers based on safety, beyond existing upstream measures such as the SDQ Framework. This will apply to all public sector construction tenders using PQM, under the BCA Construction Workheads (CW01 & CW02), for projects ≥ \$3mil.

The current safety-related criteria typically evaluate a contractor's past safety performance or safety track record. To encourage contractors to consider and propose safety enhancements, the scope of the criteria will be expanded beyond safety performance e.g. agencies could require tenderers to submit innovative proposals related to WSH. One such proposal could be to adopt safer construction methods or deploy WSH technologies to improve risk monitoring and WSH outcomes.

- b) For construction and construction-related tenders >\$1mil which are not using PQM: As there is currently no requirement to evaluate the safety credentials of the tenderers during tender evaluation for projects not using PQM, the minimum weightage of 5% for safety-related criteria will be applied to public sector construction and construction related tenders not using PQM under the BCA Construction Workheads (CW01 & CW02) and Construction Related Workheads (ME & CR), for projects > \$1mil.

Table 3: Enhanced safety-related criteria

S/N	Details
At Tender Stage:	
1	For tenders called using PQM (i.e. CW01 & CW02 projects ≥ \$3mil), agencies will increase the minimum weightage and expand the scope of the safety-related criteria e.g. to include innovative proposals related to WSH, such as technology adoption.
2	For CW01, CW02, ME & CR tenders not using PQM with value > \$1mil, agencies will include safety-related criteria in the tender evaluation criteria with minimum weightage of 5% for safety-related criteria.
Firms can refer to the PQM Framework for the suggested safety-related criteria.	

(3) Measures to Incentivise Good WSH Standards

(3A) Adoption of Mature WSH Technology

10 **Scope:** Main Contractor is required to adopt mature WSH technology to enhance safety and raise productivity on-site for public sector construction and construction-related projects ≥ \$3mil. Refer to Table 4.

11 The technology should include:

- a) Electronic Permit-to-Work System (ePTW) which allows full visibility of ongoing high-risk activities and identifies conflicting works; and
- b) Vehicular Safety Technology (VST) which detects and manages driver/operator fatigue, and minimises potential collisions and accidents.

12 These requirements are applicable to public sector construction and construction related tenders under the BCA Construction Workheads (CW01 & CW02) and Construction Related Workheads (ME & CR) for projects ≥ \$3mil.

Table 4: Adoption of mature WSH technology

S/N	Details
At Tender Stage:	
1	For CW01, CW02, ME & CR projects ≥ \$3mil, agencies to include the ePTW and VST specification in the tender document. Firms can refer to the <u>Annex B</u> and <u>Annex C</u> for the ePTW and VST specifications respectively.
At Construction Stage:	
2	For CW01, CW02, ME & CR projects ≥ \$3mil, the Main Contractor is required to implement the proposed WSH technologies on site. Firms can refer to <u>Annex A</u> for more details.

(3B) Adoption of WSH Bonus Scheme

13 The WSH Bonus Scheme serves to incentivise good safety performance during the construction phase. Contractors can use the rewards to recognise the efforts of on-site workers in upholding good safety standards, to create a reinforcing cycle of a strong safety culture.

14 **Scope:** Government agencies will be required to adopt the WSH Bonus Scheme, and to ensure that Main Contractors allocate a portion of the Bonus to reward workers. This will be applicable to public sector construction and construction related tenders ≥ \$50mil under the BCA Construction Workheads (CW01 & CW02) and Construction Related Workheads (ME & CR). Refer to Table 5.

Table 5: Adoption of WSH Bonus Scheme

S/N	Details
At Tender Stage:	
1	For CW01, CW02, ME & CR projects ≥ \$50mil, agencies will include the WSH Bonus Scheme specification in the tender document.
At Construction Stage:	
2	For CW01, CW02, ME & CR projects ≥ \$50mil, agencies will implement the WSH Bonus Scheme on site. This could include (a) Carrying out regular assessment on the Main Contractor, (b) Managing the progress bonus payment to the Main Contractor. Firms can refer to <u>Annex A</u> for more details.

Clarification

15 Contractors can refer to the revised PQM framework for these changes. The revised PQM framework can be downloaded from <https://www1.bca.gov.sg/procurement/tender-stage/price-quality-method-pqm-framework>.

16 For clarification related to the PQM Framework and circular, please direct your queries to BCA (Link: <https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/>).

17 For an overview of the applicability of the enhancements based on the types of projects, refer to Table 6.

Table 6: Overview of applicability of enhancements

Project Type	Construction Projects (Enhancement)	Construction-related Projects (Enhancement)
Project Sum > \$90k to ≤ \$1mil	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con only.	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con only.
> \$1mil to < \$3mil	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con & all levels of Subcontractors. (1B) Include standardised safety requirements in Particular Conditions (2) Safety-related criteria min weightage set at 5% of tender evaluation criteria	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con & all levels of Subcontractors. (1B) Include standardised safety requirements in Particular Conditions (2) Safety-related criteria min weightage set at 5% of tender evaluation criteria
≥ \$3mil	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con & all levels of subcontractors. (1B) Include standardised safety requirements in Particular Conditions (2) Safety-related criteria min weightage raised to 15% of Quality or 5% of overall PQM score (3A) Adoption of Mature WSH Technology	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con & all levels of subcontractors. (1B) Include standardised safety requirements in Particular Conditions (2) Safety-related criteria min weightage set at 5% of tender evaluation criteria (3A) Adoption of Mature WSH Technology
≥ \$50mil	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con & all levels of subcontractors. (1B) Include standardised safety requirements in Particular Conditions (2) Safety-related criteria min weightage raised to 15% of Quality or 5% of overall PQM score	(1A) SDQ Framework applicable to Main Con & all levels of subcontractors. (1B) Include standardised safety requirements in Particular Conditions (2) Safety-related criteria min weightage set at 5% of tender evaluation criteria

Project Sum	Project Type	Construction Projects (Enhancement)	Construction-related Projects (Enhancement)
		(3A) Adoption of Mature WSH Technology (3B) Adoption of WSH Bonus Scheme	(3A) Adoption of Mature WSH Technology (3B) Adoption of WSH Bonus Scheme

Thank you.

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Enc:

Annex A: Summary & Implementation Guide

Annex B: Electronic Permit to Work Specification Template

Annex C: Vehicular Safety Tech Specification Template

(Transmitted via email)