

SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE
FIRE SAFETY & SHELTER DEPARTMENT
HQ SCDF, 91 Ubi Ave 4 Singapore 408827 Fax: 68481493
Website: http://: www.scdf.gov.sg



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DID: 68481470
FAX: 68481493

10 Nov 2008

President, Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore (ACES)
President, Real Estates Development Association of Singapore (REDAS)
Registrar, Board of Architects (BOA)
Registrar, Professional Engineers Board (PEB)

Dear Sir/Mdm,

APPLICABILITY OF CIVIL DEFENCE SHELTER ACT

Since the implementation of the Civil Defence Shelter Act (CDSA) with effect from 1 May 1998, new houses and flats are required to incorporate Civil Defence (CD) shelters.

2 Two circulars (ref: CD/SB/C/A1/3) dated 1 Jun 2001 and 18 Mar 2002 were issued by SCDF on the above mentioned subject. Recently, there have been frequent cases of QPs seeking clarification on the applicability of the CDSA for their developments. The purpose of this circular is to explain and remind on the applicability of the CDSA and the requirement for provision of CD shelters in new houses and flats.

3 Under the CDSA, shelter would be required in a "new building" which means a building **"which is constructed on vacant land or in place of a building which has been demolished"**. The requirement for provision of shelters in residential development projects is as follows:-

a New Erection Development/Redevelopment

The above covers houses/ flats that are constructed as new erection developments as well as redevelopment of existing houses/ flats that are completely demolished and rebuilt. These projects are required to provide shelters as they are considered as new houses/flats under the CDSA.



b Reconstruction /Addition-And-Alteration Works (AAW)

Proposals for AAW/reconstruction (except for total demolition and rebuilt cases) do not come under the CDSA. However, for reconstruction projects where the existing houses/flats are demolished and rebuilt during construction stage, shelters are required to be provided. Qualified Persons (QPs) are advised to seek consultation with SCDF on the requirement for provision of shelters for such reconstruction projects. In addition, we would like to clarify that in the rebuilding of a house where only its party wall(s) with their embedded columns and supporting beams, if any, are retained, a shelter is required for this rebuilt house as it is considered as a new house under the CDSA.

4 We would appreciate it if you could disseminate the contents of this circular to members of your Institution or Association.

5 Please contact undersigned at 68481470 or LTC Cheok Poh Chin at 68481406, should you require further clarifications.

Yours faithfully,

CPT LEE GEOK SENG RAYMOND
SSO SHELTER DEVELOPMENT
FOR COMMISSIONER, SINGAPORE CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE

cc

Members of FSSD Standing Committee

President, SISV

CEO, HDB
Attn: Mr Lau Joo Ming

CEO, URA

CEO, BCA
Attn: Deputy CEO (Building Control)
Director (Special Functions)
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