

15 November 2022

Attention: All Property Owners

## **ADVISORY ON THE REPLACEMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION MANHOLE COVERS WITHIN DEVELOPMENT**

1. There were incidents occurring overseas where gas had accumulated in underground facilities, resulting in explosions and causing damages to properties and/or injuries. In response, the Infocomm Media Development Authority (“**IMDA**”) updated the Code of Practice for Info-communication Facilities in Buildings (“**COPIF**”) in 2018 to require owners of new developments who provide telecommunication manholes within their developments to use manhole covers with the following features:
  - (a) there should be at least four (4) gas discharge valves to ensure that there are sufficient vents to allow gas to be discharged from the manhole;
  - (b) the gas discharge valves should be able to discharge gas automatically once the manhole is accumulated with gas; and
  - (c) the gas discharge valves should have caps to minimise the risk of mosquitoes getting into and breeding inside the manholes. The caps should be secured to prevent them from being dislodged.
2. A similar incident occurred recently at Bukit Batok, and after a thorough investigation, it was identified that one of the manhole covers did not adopt the above features as the development was constructed prior to the above revision.
3. To ensure that the public safety is safeguarded, IMDA and SCDF hereby issue this advisory, recommending owners of existing developments to replace your existing telecommunication manhole covers with those highlighted in paragraph 1 (a) to (c). You may wish to engage your own contractor(s) for such replacement or alternatively, you may contact any of the telecommunication operators below who may refer you to their contractors instead.

<b>List of telecommunication operators</b>	
Netlink Management Ltd	huanhui.law@netlinknbn.com
Singapore Telecommunications Ltd	g-opsreq@singtel.com
StarHub Ltd	raymond.wc.ho@starhub.com

4. For clarifications, please contact IMDA at [interconnect@imda.gov.sg](mailto:interconnect@imda.gov.sg) or SCDF at [SCDF\\_HAZ\\_Feedback@scdf.gov.sg](mailto:SCDF_HAZ_Feedback@scdf.gov.sg) respectively.
5. Thank you.

Issued by:

**Infocomm Media Development Authority**  
**Singapore Civil Defence Force**

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Netlink Management Ltd

Singapore Telecommunications Ltd

StarHub Ltd