

15 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **GUIDANCE ON THE ASSESSMENT OF EXTENSION OF TIME DUE TO SEVERE HAZE CONDITIONS UNDER CLAUSE 14.2(B) OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR STANDARD CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT (PSSCOC) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS**

### **Objective**

This circular provides guidance to the Built Environment (BE) sector and all Government Procuring Entities (“GPEs”) on the assessment of extension of time (EOT) due to severe haze conditions under Clause 14.2(b) of the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Public Sector Standard Conditions of Contract (PSSCOC).

### **Background**

2 Severe haze conditions may impact both safety and productivity on site especially where substantial works are required to be carried out outdoors. Depending on the air quality, prolonged or strenuous outdoor work should be reduced, minimised or avoided. For example, outdoor lifting operations involving tower and mobile cranes could be affected due to poor visibility. Other risk mitigating measures may also need to be implemented, e.g. reducing duration of outdoor work, rotating jobs and scheduling more rest breaks, in order to mitigate the health effects of haze on the workforce.

### **Guidance on assessment of EOT due to severe haze conditions**

3 Pursuant to Clause 14.2 (b)<sup>1</sup> of the PSSCOC, there would be grounds for an EOT to be granted due to severe haze conditions.

4 As per National Environment Agency (NEA)’s health advisory, healthy persons are to avoid prolonged or strenuous outdoor physical exertion when 24-hour PSI level<sup>2</sup> enters the “Very Unhealthy” range of 201-300; and to minimise outdoor activity when 24-hour PSI level enters the “Hazardous” range of >300. As such, project teams should review whether outdoor works should be continued

<sup>1</sup> **Clause 14.2 Extension of the Time for Completion.** *The time within which the Works or any phase or part of the Works is to be completed may be extended by the Superintending Officer either prospectively or retrospectively and before or after the Time for Completion by such further period or periods of time as may reasonably reflect delay in completion of the Works which, notwithstanding due diligence and the taking of all reasonable steps by the Contractor to avoid or reduce such delay, will or has been caused by any of the following events:*

*(b) Exceptionally adverse weather conditions or severe haze conditions the assessment of which shall be in accordance with the relevant provision in the Contract.*

<sup>2</sup> 24-hour PSI levels can be found from NEA’s website: <https://www.haze.gov.sg/>.

when the 24-hour PSI level goes above 200 for the well-being of their workforce. For MOM's guidelines on protecting employees from the effect of haze, refer to [www.mom.gov.sg/haze/guidelines-on-protecting-employees-from-haze](http://www.mom.gov.sg/haze/guidelines-on-protecting-employees-from-haze).

5 Eligibility of claims for EOT shall be assessed by the Superintending Officer (SO) based on individual project site conditions and impact to overall site productivity caused by severe haze conditions. SO may refer to Table 1 below for general guidelines on EOT assessment.

Table 1: Assessment of EOT for delay due to severe haze conditions

<p><b>1. Eligibility Criteria</b></p> <p>(i) Air Quality Conditions: 24-hour PSI level &gt;200</p> <p><i>Note: The contractor shall submit to the SO the 24-hour PSI level readings of the affected days. For historical daily records of PSI readings, refer to NEA's website: <a href="https://www.haze.gov.sg/">https://www.haze.gov.sg/</a>. To simplify the assessment, PSI levels to be based on the highest reading reported by NEA across Singapore for a particular hour. Refer to the example in the Annex for more details.</i></p> <p>(ii) Site Conditions: Safety measures have been implemented during the period stated in (i), resulting in loss in site productivity (e.g. reducing duration of outdoor work, rotating jobs, scheduling more rest breaks, ceasing outdoor lifting operations due to poor visibility, etc.)</p>							
<p><b>2. EOT calculation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EOT can be provided if both eligibility criteria (i) and (ii) are met. EOT calculation is recommended as below:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of hours during the relevant site working hours where the hourly 24-hour PSI level exceeded 200</th> <th>Recommended EOT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>At least 3 hours, but less than 5 hours</td> <td>0.5 day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At least 5 hours</td> <td>1 day</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the working hours for construction sites vary, the SO has the discretion to make adjustment to the recommended EOT as appropriate.</li> <li>SO has the discretion to adjust the duration of recommended EOT if the progress of works has not been significantly impacted by severe haze conditions, for example where the project sites are primarily undergoing indoor works such as architectural fit-out works, indoor additions and alterations (A&amp;A) works, indoor maintenance and repair works and other similar activities.</li> <li>If the severe haze condition occurs on the same day as another condition that is eligible for EOT, the overlapping duration will not be counted twice towards the EOT calculation.</li> <li>Refer to the Annex for an illustrated example.</li> </ul>		Number of hours during the relevant site working hours where the hourly 24-hour PSI level exceeded 200	Recommended EOT	At least 3 hours, but less than 5 hours	0.5 day	At least 5 hours	1 day
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## Implementation

6 This circular shall apply with immediate effect to public sector construction contracts that have not been issued the Certificate of Substantial Completion under Clause 17.1 of the PSSCOC as of 15 November 2023.

## Clarifications

7 For clarification on this circular, please direct your queries to <https://www.bca.gov.sg/feedbackform/>.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Ng Man Hon  
Director, Procurement Policies Department  
Building and Construction Authority

ANNEX: Illustrated example of recommended EOT calculation

Readings for XX Jan 20XX						
Time	24-hr PSI					Overall Singapore
	North	South	East	West	Central	
1:00AM	132	142	153	135	146	132-153
2:00AM	132	142	153	136	146	132-153
3:00AM	132	143	153	137	147	132-153
4:00AM	132	143	153	137	146	132-153
5:00AM	132	143	153	137	147	132-153
6:00AM	150	160	170	155	167	150-170
7:00AM	170	180	190	175	187	170-190
8:00AM	180	190	205	185	200	180-205
9:00AM	195	205	215	200	210	195-215
10:00AM	201	210	220	205	215	201-220
11:00AM	190	200	210	195	200	190-210
12:00PM	175	180	195	175	185	175-195
1:00PM	175	183	201	175	185	175-201
2:00PM	175	180	195	175	180	175-195
3:00PM	155	160	175	155	160	155-175
4:00PM	134	142	153	140	149	134-153
5:00PM	135	142	152	141	149	135-152
6:00PM	135	143	152	141	148	135-152
7:00PM	135	142	152	141	149	135-152
8:00PM	135	142	152	141	150	135-152
9:00PM	135	142	152	140	151	135-152
10:00PM	135	143	153	138	151	135-153
11:00PM	135	143	153	138	152	135-153
12:00AM	136	143	153	137	152	136 -153

Relevant working hours on Site A →

Based on the highest readings reported by NEA across Singapore, there are 4 hours where the 24-hour PSI level exceeds 200.

The recommended EOT is therefore 0.5 day.

Note: Above PSI readings are arbitrary figures intended solely for illustrative purposes.