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Building Engineering Division (#05-00)
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See **Distribution**

Dear Sir/Madam

CONTRAVENTIONS OF THE BUILDING CONTROL ACT

The primary objective of the Building Control Act is to ensure building safety in Singapore. Hence, there are statutory responsibilities stipulated for the various project parties, namely the developers, qualified persons, builders and site supervisors, to fulfil. Structural safety may be compromised if there are any lapses in carrying out these duties.

2 In Jul 2002, BCA sent a circular to inform the industry about 2 incidents where the builders had indiscriminately cut off some column starter bars without the knowledge of the qualified persons. Such acts could have adverse implications on the structural design and integrity of the building, and BCA consequently took prosecution actions against the errant parties.

3 This circular highlights again some recent concluded prosecution cases. In one of the cases, the QP for structural works permitted the carrying out of building works of a multi-storey residential block without first obtaining the necessary approval of the structural plans. He was convicted and fined in court. The Professional Engineers Board has also suspended the QP for 6 months.

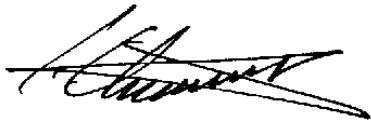
4 In another case, the connections of the precast structural elements were discovered to be carried out not in accordance with the approved plans. Subsequently, the 2 builders and 4 site supervisors were charged, convicted and fined in court. The site supervisors were also suspended for 3 months by the IES-ACES Joint Accreditation Committee.

5 The need for full compliance with the Act and its regulations cannot be understated. Any attempts to contravene the regulatory requirements may undermine the structural safety of buildings. Therefore, BCA will not hesitate to take the necessary actions against the errant parties.

6. We wish to request you to remind your members to exercise diligence when performing their duties to ensure that they are in compliance with the requirements of the Building Control Act and its regulations and be vigilant in ensuring safety.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chew Keat Chuan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHEW KEAT CHUAN
DIRECTOR, BUILDING ENGINEERING DIVISION
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

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