Dear Sir/Madam

ADVISORY ON GOOD PRACTICES FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF INFINITY EDGE POOLS

Aim

This letter serves as an advisory to the industry to adopt the following good practice in the design, construction and maintenance of infinity edge pools, particularly if the pools are with long lengths and are located along the building edges, so as to allow safe and proper maintenance.

Infinity Edge Pool

2 An infinity edge pool (also known as and includes negative edge, zero edge, disappearing edge or vanishing edge pool) is a swimming or reflecting pool which produces a visual effect of water extending to the horizon, vanishing, or extending to ‘infinity’. Overflowing water falls into an overflow drain that sits beneath the vanishing edge. From here, the water is collected and pumped back into the main pool.

3 In recent building plan submissions and TOP inspections, we have observed a trend of infinity edge pools with glass barriers installed on the walls of overflow drains (see Figure 1 for illustration). Some of these pools are located at height such as the rooftop of the developments.

4 While the glass barriers are designed to withstand the minimum horizontal loads as prescribed in the Approved Document to protect people from falling off the building, they are not designed to withstand unexpected loading conditions such as the build-up pressure from large volume of water retained in the drain in the event of failure of the drainage system (see Figure 1 for illustration)
5 Open overflow drains are susceptible to clogging caused by fallen tree leaves or foreign objects such as plastic bags. In some cases, the overflow drains are not easily accessible for maintenance. The maintenance worker is required to swim across the pool to access the drains along the building edge.

![Diagram of water level and glass barrier](image)

**Figure 1**
Unexpected loading condition on the glass barrier caused by the build-up of water pressure between the pool wall and glass

**Good practices in Design, Construction and Maintenance of Infinity Edge Pools**

6 BCA recommends that as a good practice, the Qualified Person should adopt the following when designing and constructing infinity edge pools (see Figure 2 for illustration):

a. Design the infinity pool with proper drainage and setback from the building edge;
b. Provide sufficient outlet discharge points at regular intervals and proper grating cover for the overflow drain and for the maintenance access ‘corridors’ to prevent clogging due to foreign objects;
c. Provide safe and convenient means of access to the overflow drain and maintenance access ‘corridors’ to facilitate ease of routine inspection and maintenance;
d. Carry out risk assessment and evaluate the need to design the safety barrier for additional loading conditions due to the build up of water pressure in any circumstances; and
e. Provide preventive measures to stop inflatable floats on which users could lie on from falling off the edge of the pool
Where glass barriers are used, the QP for structural plan (QP (ST)) for the glass barrier is reminded that it is a mandatory requirement to design the reinforcement for the kerb or nib supporting the fixings of the glass barriers to sustain the design imposed loads of the barriers. The casting sequence and details of reinforcement for the kerb or nib supporting the glass barriers are to be clearly indicated in the structural drawing.

For Clarifications

We would appreciate it if you could convey the contents of this letter to the members of your organisation. For further clarifications, please contact the following officers. Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan type</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Contact Number/Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building Plan</td>
<td>Tan Yu Jun</td>
<td>DID: 6804-4374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:tan_yu_jun@bca.gov.sg">tan_yu_jun@bca.gov.sg</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural Plan</td>
<td>Yan Chong Hui</td>
<td>DID: 6804-4629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:yan_chong_hui@bca.gov.sg">yan_chong_hui@bca.gov.sg</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yours faithfully

DARREN LIM
DIRECTOR
BUILDING PLAN AND MANAGEMENT GROUP
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL
DISTRIBUTION (via e-mail):

President
Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)
70, Bukit Tinggi Road
Singapore 289758
ies@iesnet.org.sg

President
Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore (ACES)
18, Sin Ming Lane #06-01
Midview City
Singapore 573960
secretariat@aces.org.sg

President
Real Estate Developers’ Association of Singapore (REDAS)
190 Clemenceau Avenue #07-01
Singapore Shopping Centre
Singapore 239924
enquiry@redas.com

President
Singapore Contractors Association Limited (SCAL)
Construction House
1 Bukit Merah Lane 2
Singapore 159760
enquiry@scal.com.sg

President
Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
79 Neil Road
Singapore 088904
info@sia.org.sg

President
Society of Project Managers (SPM)
Macpherson Road P.O.Box 1083
Singapore 913412
societyofprojectmanagers@gmail.com

President
Singapore Institute of Building Limited (SIBL)
70 Palmer Road #03-09C
Palmer House
Singapore 079427
josephine@sibl.com.sg
President
Singapore Institute of Surveyors & Valuers (SISV)
110 Middle Road #09-00
Chiat Hong Building
Singapore 188968
sisv.info@sisv.org.sg

President
Singapore Structural Steel Society (SSSS)
1 Liang Seah Street #02-11/12
Liang Seah Place
Singapore 189022
secretariat@ssss.org.sg

President
Geotechnical Society of Singapore
c/o Professional Activities Centre
NUS Faculty of Engineering
9 Engineering Drive 1
Singapore 117576
geoss@nus.edu.sg

President
Professional Engineers Board, Singapore (PEB)
52 Jurong Gateway Road #07-03
Singapore 608550
registrar@peb.gov.sg

President
Board of Architects (BOA)
5 Maxwell Road
1st Storey Tower Block, MND Complex,
Singapore 069110
boarch@singnet.com.sg

Director
Building and Infrastructure
Defence Science & Technology Agency
71 Science Park Drive
Singapore 118253
ong_yew_hing@dsta.gov.sg

Director of Infrastructure
Infrastructure And Facility Services Division
Ministry of Education HQ (Ghim Moh)
285 Ghim Moh Road
Blk C Level 3
Singapore 279622
eng_wee_tong@moe.gov.sg
Director
Engineering Development and Procurement Department
Public Utilities Board (PUB)
40 Scotts Road #18-01
Environment Building
Singapore 228231
young_joo_chye@pub.gov.sg

Deputy Chief Executive
Infrastructure & Development
Land Transport Authority
1 Hampshire Road
Block 8 Level 1
Singapore 219428
chong_kheng_chua@lta.gov.sg

Deputy Director
Project Devt & Mgt Sect 1 (C&S)
Building Quality Group
Housing & Development Board
HDB Hub
480 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh
Singapore 310480
low_kiang_heng@hdb.gov.sg

Director
Technical Services Division
JTC Corporation
The JTC Summit
8 Jurong Town Hall Road
Singapore 609434
koh_chwee@jtc.gov.sg

Senior Director (Building & Estates Management)
People’s Association (PA)
9 King George’s Avenue
Singapore 208581
foo_soon_leng@pa.gov.sg

President
The Tunnelling and Underground Construction Society Singapore (TUCSS)
c/o CMA International Consultants Pte Ltd
1 Liang Seah Street #02-12
Liang Seah Place
Singapore 189022
info@tucss.org.sg

President
Society of Rock Mechanics and Engineering Geology
1 Liang Seah Street #02-12
Liang Seah Place
Singapore 189022
srmeg@cma.sg

All CORENET e-Info subscribers