Date: 27 September 2018

Registrar, Board of Architects
Registrar, Professional Engineers Board
President, Singapore Institute of Architects
President, Institution of Engineers, Singapore
President, Association of Consulting Engineers, Singapore

Dear Sir/Mdm

Notice to Qualified Persons and Registered Inspectors on Products Supplied by Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd

1. The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) has been taking additional measures to ensure the fire safety of buildings following the fire at 30 Toh Guan Road on 4 May 2017. During our checks, we found that samples of Bolliya and Bolli-Core brand composite panels which were taken from several project sites failed the fire performance tests, although they had valid Certificates of Conformity (CoCs).

2. The manufacturer in question for these composite panels is Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd, which is based in China. It is concurrently the CoC holder for the Bolliya brand. Despite several attempts, Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd did not respond and did not provide any explanation, when asked by the Certification Body (CB) why the samples taken from the project sites failed the fire performance tests. This query and explanation process is important to determine the root cause of the failures, while providing CoC holders an avenue to explain the inconsistency in the quality of the composite panels installed at the sites and those used for obtaining the CoC, and take corrective measures.

3. These incidents involving Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd suggest that there is a systemic inconsistency in the quality of their products delivered to project sites and those used for CoC tests, which requires further explanation and investigation. This has given SCDF cause for concern with the use of all fire safety products manufactured by Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd, particularly within a partially self-regulated regime like the Product Listing Scheme (PLS), and as the company has
refused to respond to any queries. In such a scheme, the need for assurance that the products supplied conform to the samples used for certification is paramount. The Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd composite panels which failed the fire performance tests have been delisted by the CB from the PLS. SCDF has further requested CBs to revoke existing CoCs for all other products manufactured by Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd.

4. Given the lack of assurance in relation to the products supplied by Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd, SCDF requires Qualified Persons (QPs) and Registered Inspectors (RIs) not to certify or declare as compliant all applications for approval of fire safety works and fire safety certificate which entail the use of any fire safety products from Guangdong Bolliya Metal Building Material Co., Ltd for the purpose of sections 23(4(b)) and 29(5) of the Fire Safety Act. QPs and RIs are also reminded to confirm the validity of a CoC via the online directory of the CBs as part of your checks.

5. For any clarification on the requirements, please contact Mr Pang Tong Teck at DID: 68481403 (e-mail address: Pang_Tong_Teck@scdf.gov.sg).

Yours faithfully,

(transmitted via e-mail)

Mr Pang Tong Teck
Fire Safety and Shelter Department
for Commissioner
Singapore Civil Defence Force