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Building Engineering Division (#05-00)

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **SS EN 12620 AGGREGATES FOR CONCRETE – A NEW APPROACH TO SPECIFYING AGGREGATES**

BCA encourages the industry to adopt sustainable practices through a multi-pronged approach that covers among others, energy efficiency and the use of sustainable construction material which includes the recycling of demolition waste. To assist the industry to understand what sustainable construction is all about, a seminar entitled "Achieving Sustainability Through the Use of Recycled/Waste Materials in Concrete" was recently organised on 24 Jul 2008. At the seminar, the new SS EN 12620 - Specification for Aggregates for Concrete was introduced.

2 SS EN 12620 paves the way for alternative substitutes to natural aggregates as it permits the use of aggregates from natural and manufactured sources, including recycled aggregates and a mixture of these aggregates. This is a step forward when compared to the current code SS 31 which is a specification for aggregates from natural sources only for concrete.

3 SS EN 12620 will be incorporated in the Approved Document with effect from 1 Jan 2009 and will eventually replace SS 31 which is expected to be withdrawn by Jan 2011. However, in order to allow the industry time to phase in the new standard, SS EN 12620 will co-exist with SS 31 during this transition period.

4 To familiarise the industry on the possible use of recycled materials, BCA has also published a Guidebook on the "Use of Recycled Materials". Building professionals can make use of the guide in the selection and specification of recycled materials for their projects. Currently, a couple of on-going projects are already using recycled/waste materials such as washed copper slag as replacement for concreting sand and recycled concrete aggregates for use as coarse aggregates in concrete.

5 The SS EN 12620 Standard may be purchased from Spring Singapore, while the softcopy of the Guidebook on the "Use of Recycled Materials" is available from BCA's website at the following link:

[http://www.bca.gov.sg/SustainableConstruction/sustainable\\_series.html](http://www.bca.gov.sg/SustainableConstruction/sustainable_series.html)

6 I would appreciate it if you could bring to the attention of your members the contents of this circular. Please contact Senior Executive Engineer/Mr Lung Hian Hao at Tel: 6325-2090 or email: lung\_hian\_hao@bca.gov.sg if you need further clarification.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'K Thanabal'.

K THANABAL  
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