

PEP-SBF AWARDS 2023

PRO-ENTERPRISE SURVEY (PES) AWARD

Agency

Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)



SCDF
The Life Saving Force
... for a safer Singapore

Summary

SCDF's core values guide us in everything we do. We take Pride in protecting and saving lives and property; and feel the same when enabling enterprise. We Care for our people and those we serve, including extending this care to the businesses that we work with.

SCDF's regulatory stakeholders are from the building submission and maintenance eco-system including Qualified Persons, Fire Safety Managers, professional bodies, and supply chain users in Petroleum & Flammable Materials. Our stakeholder involvements have contributed to successful implementation of simpler policies and regulatory requirements, without compromising fire safety.

What is one takeaway that the SCDF has for other agencies in terms of pro-enterprise efforts?

One of the factors to successful pro-enterprise efforts is our people. We recognise that embracing a pro-enterprise culture is extremely important. Our people have done well to balance the delicate needs of maintaining a high standard of fire safety and protection for occupants of buildings, and at the same time meeting the needs of businesses adequately. Together, we work with MTI and other agencies in creating a pro-enterprise environment for businesses – where government agencies and the Pro-Enterprise Panel are always ready to listen to feedback and assist them.

What does the SCDF intend to do in the coming years to become more pro-enterprise?

Continued collaboration and open-minded stance on keeping abreast of industry trends to facilitate businesses' growth

A. Gather emergent requirements and expectations of industry professionals and academia stakeholders on fire safety policies. The Fire Code 2023 was published digitally in August 2023 for industry and practitioners' ease of use. A key thrust in this edition is supporting built environment sustainability in line with the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and facilitates green initiatives like Wall-Mounted Photovoltaic Panels, Energy Storage Systems and Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

B. Deepen Collaboration and partnering with academia and stakeholders to translate research into application. SCDF regularly engages the leaders for industry trends and innovation to collaborate on steering the trajectory of research and development to transform the industry and enhance public safety outcomes for all stakeholders. SCDF works closely with Institutes of Higher Learning to assess and validate emerging research, technology, and innovation on fire safety engineering, building design and construction into innovative, yet translatable industry practices.

C. Readily Adopting global best practices. SCDF actively participates in the Inter-jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC) which promotes effective international collaboration concerning building regulatory system including fire safety developments of member countries. Through such forums, SCDF exchanges knowledge with the global fire safety ecosystem.

Pro-enterprise Approach in Regulating Fire Safety

A. Provide flexibility in design of fire safety measures. SCDF would continue to adapt and fine-tune SCDF's performance-based approach towards fire safety regulation, to enable transformation and innovation in architecture, building design and construction. This includes assessment of new business ideas surfaced by MTI. For example, SCDF was awarded the Pro-Enterprise Suggestion (Supporting Agency) Award in 2022 for contributions with NUS Venture, Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) and Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), in supporting with respective domain advice on the new business idea surfaced by MTI for a network of safe lactation pods around Singapore to meet the needs of nursing mothers.

B. Actively review rules/guidelines in view of new trends and industry demands. SCDF works closely with stakeholders to identify new trends and industry demands in civil protection and fire safety to address the implications from the upstream, at the regulatory design stage, for fire and building safety. Examples include:

- **Auto Temporary Permit (TP) Approval** – In December 2021, SCDF reviewed the TP processing/approval time arising from feedback via the Pro-Enterprise Survey.

With the revised auto TP approval process, the applicant will now receive an automatically generated approval letter within 3 days.

- **New Technical reference for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** – SCDF partnered with academia and industry in the development of the Technical Reference for storage, land transportation and handling of LNG to support growth of local LNG industry, which was published in September 2020.

C. Reduction of business costs – whilst ensuring that fire and design safety is not compromised. Examples include:

- **Revised Fire Certificate (FC) Inspection Regime.** SCDF revised the FC inspection regime in Jan 2023 to bring industry cost savings and streamlines the process. The streamlined process provisions for SCDF to conduct audit inspection during the PE inspection, rather than the previous scheme of conducting separate inspections. Hence, building owners are no longer required to make additional arrangements to engage contractors, vendors, and PE for SCDF audit inspections. The quality of PE's inspections is enhanced, with SCDF auditing more PE inspections.
- **Single Regulatory Front for Multi-Intrinsic Hazard Chemicals.** Companies that handle flammable materials regulated by SCDF and hazardous substances regulated by NEA were required to apply to both relevant SCDF and NEA licences. As part of pro-enterprise efforts to reduce compliance costs to industry, a review was conducted to adopt a single regulatory front approach for 4 multi-intrinsic hazard chemicals, including acryloyl chloride, allyl acetate, acrolein and dichlorosilane. With effect from 8 Nov 2022, companies that handle these chemicals will only need to apply for the Petroleum & Flammable Materials Licence from SCDF.