

# **FAQs for video surveillance system (VSS) for construction worksites with contract value of \$5 million and above**

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## **Introduction to Video Surveillance System (VSS)**

### **1. What is a Video Surveillance System?**

A video surveillance system (VSS) is a network of cameras, monitors/display units and recorders used for the purpose of surveillance. Implementing VSS can help to improve WSH performance by supporting the identification of risks, as well as facilitating accident investigation and corrective actions. It can also deter unsafe behaviours, raise safety consciousness and influence the workers to operate in a safer manner.

## **VSS scope and area coverage requirements**

### **2. When do I need to have VSS installed at my worksite(s)?**

From 1 June 2024, the occupier must install VSS at construction worksites with contract value of \$5 million and above.

### **3. Is there a grace period for worksite(s) that have not installed VSS after 1 June 2024?**

The VSS requirements were announced on 1 June 2023 and took effect on 1 June 2024. The industry has been given a lead time of 12 months to prepare and comply with the Regulations. No additional grace period will be given to worksites without VSS from 1 June 2024 onwards.

### **4. Is VSS needed for worksite(s) with an estimated completion date of 6 months or less?**

VSS is required at worksites with contract value of \$5 million and above, regardless of the estimated completion date. If most of the work has been completed or handed over and there are constraints to maintain a full VSS setup for isolated locations where VSS is required, alternative options such as portable video cameras may be considered to meet the VSS requirements.

### **5. Is the requirement on the main contractor or the sub-contractors performing the specific activities during different phases?**

The occupier, which in most cases is the main contractor, is responsible to ensure that the VSS is installed at the worksite with contract value of \$5 million and above. If the worksite

has been fully handed over to another contractor, the new contractor must take on the role as occupier and is responsible to ensure that the VSS requirements are met.

## **6. Is VSS required for office renovation and fitout works?**

VSS requirements apply to office renovation and fitout works with a contract value of \$5 million and above. However, the requirements only apply to specific locations mentioned in the Third Schedule of the WSH (General Provisions) Regulations\*. If no such works are to be carried out, VSS is not be required.

### **\*Locations to be monitored by VSS**

- Every area, including every floor of a building under construction, where any of the following works is carried out or intended to be carried out:
  - Work at height where a person may fall off or through a distance of more than 2 metres
  - Erection, dismantling and maintenance of scaffolds and formwork structures
  - Excavation works and shoring
- Every area where lifting operations are carried out or intended to be carried out or lifting machines, such as cranes, gondolas or mobile elevated working platforms, are used.
- Every area where industrial trucks such as forklifts, excavators or steam rollers, are used.
- Every area where vehicular traffic may pose danger to persons carrying out any work.
- Every loading or unloading area.
- Every confined space where any work is carried out or intended to be carried out, if a VSS can be safely installed.

## **7. Is it necessary to install VSS when setting up temporary buildings?**

It is not mandatory to install VSS when setting up temporary buildings or structures built for the purpose of short-term events. Some examples of temporary buildings or structures include tentage, showflat or pop-up store. However, it is important to engage a qualified professional in the setup process and ensure comprehensive safety measures are put in place.

**8. Do I need to ensure 100% coverage of the construction sites, and no blind spots?**

No, VSS is only required to record the following list of locations in the worksite\*.

**\*Locations to be monitored by VSS**

- Every area, including every floor of a building under construction, where any of the following works is carried out or intended to be carried out:
  - Work at height where a person may fall off or through a distance of more than 2 metres
  - Erection, dismantling and maintenance of scaffolds and formwork structures
  - Excavation works and shoring
- Every area where lifting operations are carried out or intended to be carried out or lifting machines, such as cranes, gondolas or mobile elevated working platforms, are used.
- Every area where industrial trucks such as forklifts, excavators or steam rollers, are used.
- Every area where vehicular traffic might pose danger to persons carrying out any work.
- Every loading or unloading area.
- Every confined space where any work is carried out or intended to be carried out, if a VSS can be safely installed.

**9. Will I face penalties if I am unable to fully capture the work due to access limitations?**

Where possible, position the VSS to maximise a clear line of sight of the location requiring VSS installation and minimise any obstructed views.

**10. What should I do if client/developer disallows the installation of VSS at the premises, or if VSS may not be suitable to deploy at the worksite due to factors such as limited space and power supply? Do we still need to install VSS in these situations?**

In areas where occupiers have concerns about potential intellectual property, privacy, or security issues arising from the installation of a VSS, they should provide specific and substantiated reasons to support their decision not to install VSS at those locations. Valid reasons may include identifiable privacy risks, unmitigable security concerns, or potential infringement of intellectual property rights.

In areas where occupiers are not able to install VSS due to space constraints, they should consult their VSS service provider on alternative ways to capture the footage of the work. If no feasible solution is available, occupiers should provide the reasons for not being able to install VSS, such as VSS cannot be safely installed in confined spaces because of the presence of flammable gas.

It is important to document these decisions not to install VSS at the time they are made, including the rationale and the individuals involved in the decision-making, to ensure accountability and compliance with the VSS requirements. These documents will be required to be shown to our inspectors for review during any inspection of the worksite.

#### **11. What is the policy or guidelines for employers installing VSS at worksites; and how are issues of safety and security balanced with workers' privacy?**

Under the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), organisations are required to comply with data protection obligations if they undertake activities relating to the collection, use or disclosure of personal data. These obligations apply to the use of VSS at worksites, where personal data is collected.

VSS is useful in addressing safety and security concerns at worksites such as helping companies monitor work activities and deterring unsafe work behaviours. As organisations strive towards better workplace safety and health outcomes, they must also comply with their PDPA obligations to protect their workers' personal data.

Organisations can consider implementing the following measures to ensure they comply.

- Set clear rules on how and where these devices will be used; devices should be deployed only at locations with safety and security concerns, and not at private areas such as restrooms.

- Implement data protection safeguards and controls on the storage and use of recordings, including the duration for retaining such personal data, and restricting access to authorised persons only.

Organisations can refer to the [Advisory Guidelines](#) on Key Concepts in the PDPA for more information.

## **VSS technical requirements**

### **12. What are the minimum camera specifications required for VSS?**

The cameras used for the VSS must be able to:

- (a) record colour images at the resolution of at least HD 1080, which is 1920×1080 pixels or equivalent;
- (b) record images of at least 12 frames per second;
- (c) support the export of recorded images or video footages in \*.avi, \*.mp4 or an equivalent format; and
- (d) make recordings with a date stamp, time stamp and camera identification code, which do not materially obstruct the recorded images.

If work is carried out at night or in low-light conditions, the cameras must have night vision capability. Further information on camera specifications can be found in the [WSH Guide on VSS](#).

### **13. Is streaming of video footage required for monitoring purposes?**

Streaming of video footage for monitoring purposes is not mandatory. However, it is recommended to review the footages periodically to identify and address any unsafe WSH conditions in a timely manner.

**14. Is it necessary to utilise third-party tools or video analytics for analysing the video footage?**

Companies are encouraged to adopt tools such as video analytics to analyse footage for real-time alerts or to improve safety monitoring processes. However, it is not a mandatory requirement.

**15. How long is it required to store the video footages?**

The video footage must be stored at least 30 days from the date of recording. If a reportable incident has taken place at the worksite, the footage should be stored for a at least 180 days. Safeguards must be in place to prevent any deletion or overwriting of footages. Reportable incidents are incidents such as dangerous occurrences, fatal injuries, major injuries, occupational diseases that are specified under the Workplace Safety and Health (Incident Reporting) Regulations.

**Other VSS information**

**16. Does the Ministry have a recommended list of vendors?**

MOM does not endorse or recommend any vendor. Companies are free to approach vendors that meet their needs and requirements.

**17. Are there grants or subsidies available?**

Eligible small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can consider the [Productivity Solutions Grant \(PSG\)](#) that provides grant support for the adoption of pre-scoped VSS with artificial intelligence (AI) solution packages. There is currently no grant or subsidy available for the purchase and installation of VSS without AI.

**18. Where can I find more information on the VSS requirements?**

For guidance on the deployment and installation of VSS, please refer to the [WSH Guide on VSS](#) on WSH Council's website.