



LCAS BI-WEEKLY DIGEST

25/10/04

Launch of LCAS Bi-Weekly Digest

It is LCAS great pleasure to launch LCAS Bi-Weekly Digest to all its members. This bi-weekly digest is a snapshot on industry updates, news, events, activities, new rules and regulations.

The main objective of launching the bi-weekly digest is to provide constant and relevant industry information to its members.

LCAS Publication Sub-Committee is looking forward in providing bi-weekly news to you. If you have any comments or information which you wish to share with other members, please contact LCAS Secretariat, Loh Chu May at Tel: 6377 6598 Email: chumay@epc.com.sg

Bill to Ease Contractors' Payment Woes (20/10/04)

A BILL to address the problems of building contractors not getting paid for work done was introduced in a recent parliamentary sitting.

The Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Bill, expected to take effect next year, outlaws the 'pay-when-paid' clause that allows contractors to pay their sub-contractors only after being paid by a project's owners.

Many cash-strapped contractors have not been paying their sub-contractors on time and some have also gone bust. The Bill, which applies only to new contracts, sets clear timelines for payments to be made, and gives a sub-contractor the right to stop work if he is not paid by the contractor within that timeframe. Similarly, a supplier can remove his uninstalled materials from the worksite if he is not paid by a fixed time.

However, both the sub-contractor and the supplier have to first inform the developer and contractor about their intentions. The developer can pay the sub-contractor to keep the project going, then deduct the sum from subsequent payments to the main contractor. The Bill also provides for a low-cost adjudication system to resolve payment disputes fast.

Expert Touch in Assessing New Flora

THE PLANT VARIETIES PROTECTION (PVP) BILL was passed by Parliament on 15 June 04 and came into effect on 1 July 2004. According to the Bill, plant breeders can now seek rights protection for their new varieties for 25 years.

AVA will be playing a critical role in Singapore's plant variety protection system as it has been appointed the national technical examination authority for the new plant varieties. Working closely with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, AVA will provide the technical inputs and perform the substantive examinations on the applications seeking for the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) protection. AVA will also represent the Government regionally and internationally on technical plant examination matters relating to the horticulture and agri-food sector.

Plant breeders who wish to protect their new varieties have to apply at the PVP Registry located at IPOS, and then send the plant materials to AVA's Horticulture Service Centre for technical examination.