

**Civil Defence Shelter Act 1997
(No. 12 of 1997)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

Enacting Formula

Part I PRELIMINARY

1 Short title and commencement

2 Interpretation

Part II HOUSEHOLD AND STOREY SHELTERS

3 Provision of household and storey shelters

4 Duties in relation to household and storey shelters

Part III PUBLIC SHELTERS

**5 Provision of public shelters in non-residential buildings owned by
statutory boards**

6 Duties in relation to public shelters

Part IV IMPROVISED SHELTERS

7 Commissioner may designate part of building as improvised shelter

8 Duties in relation to improvised shelters

Part V USE OF SHELTERS DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY

9 Preparatory works for occupation of shelters

10 Entry into shelters during operation of Part

11 Duties of owner or occupier of part of building which consists of shelter during state of emergency

Part VI MISCELLANEOUS

12 Permitted uses

13 Commissioner to administer Act and may delegate authority

14 Specifications for construction of shelters

15 Powers of entry

16 Authorised persons may make forcible entry

17 Furnishing of information

18 Obstructing authorised persons in execution of duty

19 Service of notices, etc.

20 Inaccuracies in documents

21 Immunity from suit

22 Jurisdiction of Courts

23 Conduct of prosecutions

24 Evidence

25 Offence by body corporate

26 Composition of offences

27 Exemption

28 Regulations

29 Consequential amendment to BuildingControl Act

THE SCHEDULE Public Shelters Deemed to be Provided under This Act

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 7th October 1997 and assented to by the President on 15th October 1997:—

THE CIVIL DEFENCE SHELTER ACT 1997

(No. 12 of 1997)

I assent.

ONG TENG CHEONG
President
15th October 1997.

Date of Commencement: 1st May 1998

An Act to require new houses and flats and new buildings which are subdivided into flats to

be provided with civil defence shelters for use during a state of emergency, to empower the Commissioner of the Singapore Civil Defence Force to require civil defence shelters to be provided in new buildings owned by statutory boards and to designate any part of any building as a civil defence shelter, for use by persons needing to take refuge therein during a state of emergency, to regulate the use of civil defence shelters and to provide for matters connected therewith, and to make a consequential amendment to the Building Control Act (Chapter 29 of the 1990 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Civil Defence Shelter Act 1997 and, with the exception of Parts IV and V, shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

(2) Parts IV and V shall not come into operation except at the time and for the duration and in the manner hereinafter provided.

(3) Whenever it appears to the Minister that —

(a) a Proclamation of Emergency by the President under Article 150 of the Constitution or a declaration of a state of civil defence emergency by the Minister under Part XII of the Civil Defence Act (Cap. 42) is imminent; and

(b) it is necessary or expedient to do so for the securing of public safety,

the Minister may by order direct that all or any of the provisions of Parts IV and V shall come into operation and the provisions of those Parts specified in the order shall come into operation and remain in operation for such period as may be specified in the order.

(4) An order made under subsection (3) shall not be in force for a period exceeding 7 days from the commencement of the order unless it has been made with the approval of the President.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“authorised person” means any person authorised by the Commissioner in writing

in accordance with this Act to carry out any duty or exercise any power under this Act or the regulations;

“building” means any permanent building or tenement and includes —

- (a) any structure or erection of whatever kind or nature; and
- (b) any building to be erected within a stratum shown or specified in any strata subdivision plan submitted for approval under the Land Titles (Strata) Act (Cap. 158);

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Singapore Civil Defence Force appointed under section 6 of the Civil Defence Act (Cap. 42);

“competent authority” means the competent authority appointed under section 3 of the Planning Act (Cap. 232);

“flat” means a horizontal stratum of a building or part thereof, whether such stratum is on one or more levels or is partially or wholly below the surface of the ground, which is wholly and principally constructed, adapted or intended to be used as a complete and separate unit for private dwelling, but does not include any part of any building which is constructed, adapted or intended to be used as a hotel, hostel, dormitory or nursing home or for such other purposes as may be prescribed;

“Force” has the same meaning as in the Civil Defence Act;

“house” means a building or any part thereof which is wholly and principally constructed, adapted or intended to be used for private dwelling, but does not include a flat or any building or part thereof which is constructed, adapted or intended to be used as a hotel, hostel, dormitory or nursing home or for such other purposes as may be prescribed;

“household shelter” means a shelter in a house or flat for the use, primarily, of the occupants of that house or flat and of persons ordinarily frequenting that house or flat, during a state of emergency;

“improvised shelter” means any building or part thereof which has been designated by the Commissioner under section 7 as a shelter for the use of any person needing to take refuge therein during a state of emergency;

“new building” means a building —

- (a) which is constructed on vacant land or in place of a building which has been demolished; and
- (b) the plans in respect of which are submitted to or lodged with the