



COVID-19 OPERATING PROCEDURES

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SITE OPERATING PROCEDURES

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SITE OPERATING PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

These are exceptional circumstances and the industry must comply with the latest Government advice on COVID-19 at all times.

These Site Operating Procedures are based on Government guidelines and Public Health England (PHE) guidelines.

Construction sites operating during the COVID-19 pandemic need to ensure they are protecting their workforce and minimising the spread of infection.

This guidance is intended to introduce consistent measures on sites of all types in line with the Governments recommendations on social distancing and ensure employers and individuals make every effort to comply.

PHE guidance for construction states “where it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, you should consider whether the activity needs to continue for the site to continue to operate, and if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission”.

Organisations must have in place effective arrangements for monitoring and reviewing their compliance with Government and industry guidance. Sites should also remind the workforce at every opportunity of the Site Operating Procedures which are aimed at protecting them, their colleagues, families and the UK population.

WHEN TO TRAVEL TO WORK

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy advised in a letter to the UK Construction industry on 31/03/20:

“that wherever possible people should work at home. However, we know that for many people working in the construction industry their job requires them to travel to their place of work, and they can continue to do so. This is consistent with the Chief Medical Officers advice”.

It is important to understand the following guidelines by which workers should or should not travel to work as outlined below:

Social distancing	Workers in the construction industry should follow the guidance on Staying at home and away from others (social distancing) . Where they cannot work from home, they must follow the same principles of social distancing while travelling to and from work and while at work.
Self-isolation	Anyone who either has a high temperature or a new persistent cough or is within 14 days of the day when the first member of their household showed symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) should not come to site, but must follow the guidance on self-isolation .
Person at increased risk	Anyone who is at increased risk of severe illness from Coronavirus (Covid-19) is strongly advised to work at home and should be particularly stringent about following social distancing measures.
Persons defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable	Anyone identified as extremely vulnerable will be advised by their health authority and must follow the guidance on shielding and protecting extremely vulnerable people .
Living with a person in one of the above groups	Anyone living with a person who is at increased risk of severe illness, or an extremely vulnerable person who is shielding from Coronavirus (Covid-19), should stringently follow the guidance on social distancing and minimise contact outside the home.
If someone falls ill	<p>If a worker develops a high temperature or a persistent cough while at work, they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure their manager or supervisor is informed • Return home immediately • Avoid touching anything • Cough or sneeze into a tissue and put it in a bin, or if they do not have tissues, cough and sneeze into the crook of their elbow. <p>They must then follow the guidance on self-isolation and not return to work until their period of self-isolation has been completed.</p>

Wherever possible workers should travel to site alone using their own transport.

If workers have no option but to share transport:

- Journeys should be shared with the same individuals and with the minimum number of people at any one time
- Good ventilation (i.e. keeping windows open) and facing away from each other may help to reduce the risk of transmission
- The vehicle should be cleaned regularly using gloves and standard cleaning products, with particular emphasis on handles and other areas where passengers may touch surfaces

Site should consider:

- Parking arrangement for additional vehicles and bicycles
- Providing hand cleaning facilities at entrance and exits
- How someone taken ill would get home

DRIVING AT WORK

When travelling at work or between site locations, workers should travel alone. If workers have no option but to share a vehicle, then they should:

- Share with the same individuals and with the minimum number of people at any one time
- Wherever possible maintain a distance of two metres and avoid touching their faces

- Maintain good ventilation (i.e. keeping the windows open) and face away from each other during the journey
- Wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap and water or hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available before entering and after getting out of the vehicle
- Regularly clean the vehicle using gloves and standard cleaning products, with particular emphasis on handles and other surfaces which may be touched during the journey

CARRYING OUT DELIVERIES OR COLLECTIONS

To maintain social distancing and avoid surface transmission when goods enter and leave the vehicle, especially in high volume situations:

- Scheduling to limit exposure to large crowds and rush hours where appropriate
- Revising pick-up and drop-off collection points and procedures with signage and markings
- Where possible and safe have single workers load or unload vehicles
- Maximising the use of electronic paperwork where possible, and reviewing procedures to enable safe exchange of paper copies where needed, for example, required transport documents
- Enabling drivers to access welfare facilities when required and consistent with other guidance
- Encouraging drivers to stay in their vehicles where this does not compromise their safety and existing safe working practices

SITE ACCESS AND EGRESS POINTS

- Stop all non-essential visitors
- Consider introducing staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion and contact at all times
- Plan site access and egress points to enable social distancing – you may need to change the number of access points, either increase to reduce congestion or decrease to enable monitoring, including in the case of emergencies
- Allow plenty of space between people waiting to enter site
- Use signage:
such as floor markings, to ensure 2 metre distance is maintained between people when queuing
reminding workers not to attend if they have symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) and to follow guidelines
- Remove or disable entry systems that require skin contact (e.g. fingerprint scanners) unless they are cleaned between each individual use
- Require all workers to wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap and water when entering and leaving the site
- Regularly clean common contact surfaces in reception, office, access control and delivery areas e.g. scanners, turnstiles, screens, telephone handsets and desks, particularly during peak flow times
- Reduce the number of people in attendance at site inductions and consider holding them outdoors wherever possible
- Where loading and offloading arrangements on site will allow it, drivers should remain in their vehicles. Where drivers are required to exit their vehicle, they should wash or sanitise their hands before handling any materials
- Consider arrangements for monitoring compliance

WORK PLANNING TO AVOID CLOSE WORKING

In line with Public Health England (PHE) guidelines, where it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, you should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the site to continue to operate, and, if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission.

Sites and work need to be planned and organised to avoid crowding and minimise the risk of spread of infection by following PHE and HSE guidance and the advice within these Site Operating Procedures.

Sites should remind the workforce (e.g. at daily briefings) of the specific control measures necessary to protect them, their colleagues, families and the UK population.

Hierarchy of Controls

If you are not able to work whilst maintaining a two-metre distance, you should consider whether the activity should continue and, if so, risk assess it using the hierarchy of controls below and against any sector-specific guidance.

Eliminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers who are unwell with symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) should not travel to or attend the workplace • Rearrange tasks to enable them to be done by one person, or by maintaining social distancing measures (2 metres) • Avoid skin to skin and face to face contact • Stairs should be used in preference to lifts or hoists and consider one ways systems • Consider alternative or additional mechanical aids to reduce worker interface <p>Site Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only absolutely necessary meeting participants should attend • Attendees should be at least two metres apart from each other • Rooms should be well ventilated / windows opened to allow fresh air circulation • Consider holding meetings in open areas where possible
Reduce	<p>Where the social distancing measures (2 metres) cannot be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the frequency and time workers are within 2 metres of each other • Minimise the number of workers involved in these tasks • Workers should work side by side, or facing away from each other, rather than face to face • Lower the worker capacity of lifts and hoists to reduce congestion and contact at all times • Regularly clean common touchpoints, doors, buttons, handles, vehicle cabs, tools, equipment etc. • Increase ventilation in enclosed spaces • Workers should wash their hands before and after using any equipment
Isolate	<p>Keep groups of workers that have to work within 2 metres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together in teams e.g. (do not change workers within teams) • As small as possible • Away from other workers where possible
Control	<p>Where face to face working is essential to carry out a task when working within 2 metres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep this to 15 minutes or less where possible • Consider introducing an enhanced authorisation process for these activities • Provide additional supervision to monitor and manage compliance
PPE	<p>Sites should not use RPE for Coronavirus (Covid-19) where the two metre social distancing guidelines are met.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where it is not possible to maintain a two metre distance, each activity should be risk assessed using the hierarchy of controls and against any sector-specific guidance, mindful that masks (RPE) are the last resort in the hierarchy • Re-usable PPE should be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared between workers • Single use PPE should be disposed of so that it cannot be reused • Where personnel are required to work in specific environments (e.g. where persons are shielding, with symptoms, or confirmed Coronavirus (Covid-19) cases may be present e.g. healthcare or in a home environment) additional PPE should be considered specific to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) risk
Behaviours	<p>The measures necessary to minimise the risk of spread of infection rely on everyone in the industry taking responsibility for their actions and behaviours.</p> <p>Please encourage an open and collaborative approach between workers and employers on site where any issues can be openly discussed and addressed.</p>

FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY SERVICE RESPONSE

The primary responsibility is to preserve life and first aid should be administered if required and until the emergency services attend.

- When planning site activities, the provision of adequate first aid resources must be agreed between the relevant parties on site
- Emergency plans including contact details should be kept up to date
- Consideration must also be given to potential delays in emergency services response, due to the current pressure on resources
- Consider preventing or rescheduling high-risk work or providing additional competent first aid or trauma resources.

CLEANING

Enhanced cleaning procedures should be in place across the site, particularly in communal areas and at touch points including:

- Taps and washing facilities
- Toilet flush and seats
- Door handles and push plates
- Hand rails on staircases and corridors
- Lift and hoist controls
- Machinery and equipment controls
- All areas used for eating must be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each break and shift, including chairs, door handles, vending machines and payment devices.
- Telephone equipment
- Key boards, photocopiers and other office equipment
- Rubbish collection and storage points should be increased and emptied regularly throughout and at the end of each day.