

CDM 2015 and Virus Containment protocols (Covid-19)

During a contagion outbreak where government intervention calls for special measures such as those in force during the current Covid-19 outbreak, CDM 2015 remains enforceable on all construction sites that remain operational. In line with those regulations all duty holders have specific roles to undertake to ensure the safety of those constructing the structure(s). During the construction of the asset contractors must follow government advice regarding augmented safety procedures to avoid the spread of the virus. These augmented procedures include but may not be limited to;

Access to site

- Stop all non-essential visitors
- Remove bio-metric entry systems that require skin contact
- Monitor or increase the amount of, site entry points to ensure social distancing can be observed
- Introduce hand washing facilities at site entry points
- Increase cleaning regime at signing in points – consider tasking a single person to complete the signing in register as operatives arrive at the signing in point.

Avoid close working

There may be circumstances where social distancing cannot be practiced but as far as possible the following principles should be observed;

- Programme works to be undertaken at different locations across the site where possible
- Work requiring skin on skin contact should not be undertaken
- PPE should be cleaned thoroughly or if 'Single-use' disposed of to avoid re-use
- Stairs to be used in preference to closed-in spaces such as lifts or hoists
- If lift/hoist usage cannot be avoided then observe regular cleaning of buttons and doors
- Meetings should be reduced in frequency, involve essential personnel only and be in open spaces with attendees 2 metres apart whenever possible
- If meetings have to be inside then rooms should be ventilated and the 2m apart rule observed
- Site induction attendees should be limited and held outside where possible or consideration given to online induction software.

Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning procedures should be enforced on site. Particular attention should be paid to communal areas and at touch points including;

- Taps and washing facilities
- Toilet flush and seats
- Door handles, push plates, hand rails on staircases and corridors
- Lift and hoist controls
- Machinery and equipment controls
- Food preparation and eating surfaces
- Key boards, photocopiers, telephone equipment, and other office equipment
- Signing in point.

Travel to site

- Wherever possible workers should travel to work in their own vehicle avoiding public transport
- Provide additional car parking for worker's vehicles
- Consider how a person taken ill will get home.

Hygiene and Welfare Provision

Construction site management have a legal obligation to provide facilities to heat food and prepare a hot drink. However, as Cafes and Restaurants close canteens cannot operate and concessions need to be made, so where it is impossible to provide a method of keeping equipment clean between uses they should be removed from site and operatives should utilise personal flasks.

- Provide augmented handwashing facilities or additional waterless sanitizing gels across the site; Canteens, toilet, drying rooms, offices, etc.
- Introduce staggered work start times to allow for shift patterns to regulate break periods
- Ensure soap and water providing facilities are kept topped up
- Provide additional cleaning to the welfare facilities
- Provide sufficient waste receptacles and more frequent emptying to accommodate additional use
- Consider a welfare attendant to 'police' maximum facility occupancy
- Wash hands before and after toilet use
- Break times should be staggered to reduce the amount of persons in the canteen
- Workers should not leave site to visit local shops so are encouraged to bring their own lunch from home
- Tables should be cleaned between use
- Drinking water should be provided with augmented cleaning methods for the dispensing tap
- Operatives should clear their own rubbish.

Self-Isolation

Anyone who shows symptoms of the virus should not come to site. With Covid-19 these symptoms present themselves as a high temperature and a persistent cough.

Self-isolation should also be observed by persons deemed to be vulnerable by virtue of age, underlying health conditions or are pregnant or are living with a person who is showing symptoms or a vulnerable person.

Procedure if Someone Falls Ill

If a worker develops symptoms of the virus they should return home immediately and avoid touching anything. They should cough or sneeze into a tissue and put it into the bin, if no tissue is available then do it into the crook of their elbow. They should stay at home until the symptoms disappear and the prescribed self-isolation period is complete.

Please also remember that the emergency services may be restricted and under a lot of pressure so existing fire safety measures should be policed rigorously.

As the situation continues additional control methods or good practice may be identified in order to control the spread of the virus. Henry Riley LLP will pass on this information as and when it presents itself. We would ask that in the interest of maintaining a united front should any information or control mechanism come to your attention that you share this information with your supply chain and your project team.

Please get in contact with one of the team if you have any further questions.



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