

## **Guidance on health safety recommendations for construction business continuity during a Covid coronavirus outbreak 19**

In this period of epidemic of the coronavirus responsible for a disease called Covid 19, the priority of construction companies is to adopt preventive measures to protect the health of their employees, in accordance with the responsibilities of employers and to encourage them to look after their health and safety and that of their entourage.

This document lists the urgent and specific measures to be implemented to ensure the necessary sanitary conditions for construction personnel working in offices, workshops, warehouses or construction sites and other places, in addition to any sanitary measures enacted by the Public Authorities, which have approved these specific measures.

In the context of this health crisis of exceptional magnitude, the implementation of these measures is an unavoidable condition for the activities of the building and public works sector. It is up to each company to assess its ability to comply with them and to take the necessary measures.

Covid 19 is part of the Coronavirus family, which is a large family of viruses generally responsible for colds and mild flu syndromes. They can nevertheless present serious forms, especially in fragile people (elderly or chronically ill, infants, pregnant women...).

The transmission of the virus is carried out by droplet projection and physical contact mainly by the hands via contaminated objects, which makes it a highly contagious disease (same place of life, direct contact at less than one meter when coughing, sneezing in the absence of protective measures ...). At the present time, there is no vaccine or specific treatment.

Only the respect of preventive measures allows to limit the risks of infection. Preventing contagion in construction activities requires the strict application of barrier measures in construction activities/workshops and annexes (offices, suppliers...).

Companies must strictly respect the recommendations of this guide throughout the containment period decided by the authorities, and if they are unable to do so, stop their activity on the works concerned.

This guide has been approved by the Ministries of Ecological Transition and Solidarity, Urban Affairs and Housing, Solidarity and Health, and Labour.

## Prerequisites

### Systematically obtain the prior agreement of customers:

o For each operation, whatever its size, the project owner formalizes, after analysis, if necessary by the project manager and the SPS coordinator (when the operation is subject to this system), in agreement with the intervening companies, a list of sanitary conditions in order to ensure that the various actors can implement and respect the additional measures enacted in the long term. This analysis will take into account :

- the capacity of the entire production chain to resume its activity (project manager, SPS coordinators, control offices, subcontractors, suppliers, transporters, etc.)
- external or internal conditions of intervention
- the number of people on the site
- coactivity

o The proposed organisation will aim to limit coactivity as much as possible and specify the conditions for compliance with health measures in the event that coactivity is not avoidable.

o The project owner may designate a Covid 19 referent responsible for coordinating the measures to be implemented.

o For 1st category operations, a CISSCT must be held, ideally by videoconference.

o For SPS coordination operations, the SPS coordinator updates the SPS CMP in order to define the epidemic prevention measures on the worksite within the framework of the requirements of the present guide and the respect of the barrier measures decreed by the health authorities; in particular, he must define the collective and organisational measures to be able to apply them in the operating procedures/PPSPS.

o The same applies to operations covered by a Prevention Plan (1992 decree), which is updated directly by the client.

o The SPS coordinator must be able to carry out his mission, including regular site visits, limit coactivity as much as possible and specify the conditions for compliance with health measures in the event that coactivity cannot be avoided.

o In this period of high activity of the emergency services, it may be useful to check their availability by consulting the prefectures' websites.

o For individual clients, they should accept the general conditions of intervention, and in particular the specific conditions of hygiene and sanitary rules (ability to respect barrier gestures, minimum distance of 1m with any person, access to a water point for hand washing, access to hygiene facilities).

In cases where the particular conditions linked to the Covid-19 epidemic would lead to delays in construction sites or delivery of the work, due to the impossibility of implementing the planned provisions, the Government will take the necessary measures by ordinance to provide, where appropriate, for the waiver of penalties applicable to suppliers, construction site workers and private project owners, for a period taking into account the duration of the health emergency period. These measures will complement

those already taken by the Orders of 25 March 2020 on various measures to adapt the rules of awarding, procedure or execution of contracts subject to the public procurement code.

Long journeys :

o Businesses with staff on long journeys must ensure the availability of accommodation in single rooms and the possibility of catering.

Apprentices, trainees and work-study students:

o In order to limit the travel of all non-essential personnel to the worksites and workshops, it is recommended that apprentices, trainees and alternating miners not be allowed to travel to the worksite and workshop. The employment contract must not be terminated, the training must, as far as possible, continue at a distance and the apprentice must continue to be paid by his employer.

**General instructions**

- Strictly respect barrier gestures, and in particular :

o Respect a minimum distance of 1m between people at all times, unless otherwise specified below.

o Thorough and frequent hand washing with water and liquid soap, at least at the beginning of the day, at each change of task, and every 2 hours in case of non-permanent wearing of gloves, after impromptu contact with other people or wearing objects recently handled by other people, with a single-use paper towel. Wash hands before drinking, eating and smoking; if hands are visibly clean, use a hydro-alcoholic solution.

o Follow the instructions issued by the health authorities.

o Remind personnel of the need to avoid touching their face with or without gloves and without prior hand cleaning.

The possibility of washing hands with access to a soap and water point is an essential condition for authorizing the activity.

- Wear a respiratory protection mask:

o Wearing a mask and goggles is mandatory in the following cases:

- working less than one meter from another person: surgical mask at least (see section "work activities").

- intervention in a sick person, if this intervention cannot be postponed: wearing of a mask is mandatory, surgical type a minima; the sick person and his entourage must imperatively wear a surgical mask (principle of cross protection).
- Intervention in a person at risk of health: the mask must be worn, at least of the surgical type.

o In other cases, the wearing of a mask is not compulsory and is discussed within the framework of the company's social dialogue. The OPPBTP's practical sheets can be used to nourish this dialogue.

o Personnel must be trained in the use of masks.

o In periods of peak epidemics, it is essential to respect the minimum distance of 1m to avoid the risk of contact, except in the case of proven technical impossibility.

o Wearing the usual work gloves and glasses is also recommended.

- Control the access of employees and other workers in the company and on the site:

o Refuse access and make any person presenting symptoms of illness, in particular cough, temperature, loss of smell and/or taste, stay at home wearing a surgical mask.

o Temperature measurements at the entrance to the premises and worksites are not recommended by the High Council of Public Health. Some patients with Covid 19 do not have a temperature at the beginning of the infection although they are contagious.

o It is also recommended to question employees when they take up their position (question guide attached).

- Inform employees that high-risk personnel, according to the High Committee of Public Health, must not work and must have a work stoppage (list and practical information attached). Pay particular attention to older employees.

- Designate a Covid 19 referent for the company and per worksite, who can coordinate the measures to be implemented and enforced (for example: company manager, employee spouse, worksite manager or employee in charge of prevention...).

- Ensure quality information and communication with staff:

Informing employees is essential in this period of epidemic, by ensuring that instructions are properly understood. It is a condition of their adherence to the recommended measures, which require the commitment and good will of everyone.

o Employee representatives and their representative bodies must be closely involved if they exist, CSE and CSSCT in particular.

o The occurrence of a case on a worksite must be reported to the site workers in the interests of transparency and to encourage compliance with the rules.

o Open air meetings should be favoured.

o Organize regular or even daily meetings with the personnel to make known the instructions and to obtain their adhesion (by respecting the minimum distance of 1m), or ensure a telephone contact.

The current conditions of intervention present risks of degraded operational conditions due to the probable unavailability of personnel, equipment, subcontractors or other resources usual to the operations. Particular attention must therefore be paid to all the "traditional" risks of worksites, and in particular the risks of falls, collisions, those related to electricity, machinery, chemicals, load bearing and postures.

### **Special instructions**

#### Supplies to be provided for compliance with health regulations :

- Disinfectant such as bleach diluted at 5%, alcohol at 70°, Anios Oxy'floor® or Phagosurf ND
- Disinfecting wipes type WIP'anios (handles, computer keyboard, toilet seat, vehicles, machines, tools...)
- Liquid soap
- Disposable hand towels
- Pedal bins with lid for disposing of hygiene consumables after use
- Garbage bags
- Usual working gloves
- Disposable gloves for handling waste bins and for cleaning/disinfecting them
- If there is no water point at the workplace, water containers clearly marked "hand washing water".
- Hydroalcoholic gel or solution (in addition, if available)
- Respiratory protection masks of the surgical mask or superior protection type (as a complement and for specific activities) \*refer to the mask sheet

#### Offices, warehouses and workshops :

- To have the maximum number of staff teleworking in order to have the strict minimum of staff present on site.
- Ensure a strong and visible display of health instructions.
- Respect, in all circumstances, a distance of at least 1 m between people, for example in :
  - o putting up markers to ensure that a distance of at least 1m is respected: adhesive tape on the floor, barriers, organisation of workstations and internal circulation, etc...

o limiting access to rooms and collective spaces, including refectory and break rooms.

- Carry out regular cleaning with disinfectant every 2 hours of the most usual contact surfaces with disinfectant (door handles, tables, counters, workstations, keyboards, telephones, etc.), at least daily for floors.
- Clearly indicate the location of wash basins and post the hand washing obligation on arrival at the site and put up the hand washing poster.
- Make available bottles of hydroalcoholic gel or solution (if available) in areas where people are present and near contact surfaces (tables, counters, etc.).
- Organize the provision of equipment and supplies to minimize the need for staff to go to the depot.
- If possible, provide storage of supplies and materials for several days on site or in vehicles.
- Favour the arrival of personnel directly on the site.
- If necessary, organize centralized logistics to supply the worksites (delivery by the depot and suppliers directly to the worksite).

#### Vehicles and machines :

- Ensure a minimum distance of 1m between people: 1 person per row maximum and staggered if several rows.
- In the case of shared use of vehicles and machinery, provide for the disinfection of contact surfaces between users (steering wheel, control buttons, gear change handle, etc.) and the provision of disinfectant wipes and hydroalcoholic gel or solution.
- To deliver derogatory travel authorisations for the company.
- Remind the employee of the need to have the personal override travel certificate (one paper document per day).
- Give preference to individual modes of transport. If necessary, use a personal vehicle (transport allowance and insurance to be checked).
- If using public transport: respect the minimum distance of 1m and mandatory hand washing on arrival at the site.

#### Life bases and bungalows of building site :

Place of life, contact and exchange, the living base or the bungalow of building site are spaces where the organization of the presence and displacements must be the subject of a sustained attention.

- Ensure a strong and visible display of health instructions.
- Respect, in all circumstances, a distance of at least 1 m between people, in particular :
  - o by halving the nominal capacity of simultaneous reception for all facilities (excluding offices),

- o possibly, by organizing the orders of passage,
  - o Possibly, by shifting the outlets,
  - o possibly, by putting up markers to enforce a distance of at least 1 m: adhesive tape on the floor, barrier (e.g. with the use of tables and chairs), organisation of interior circulation
  - o by restricting access to meeting spaces and rooms.
- If possible, install outdoor meeting, rest and break areas.
  - Install a water point or a gel or hydro-alcoholic solution dispenser outside and impose hand washing before entering life bases or site bungalows.
  - Make available bottles of hydroalcoholic gel or solution (if available) in places where people go and near contact surfaces (tables, counters, etc.).
  - Make disinfecting wipes available in the toilets for disinfection before each use.
  - Check several times a day that the dispensers for soap, hand towels, disposable wipes and hydroalcoholic gel or solution (if available) are stocked.
  - Ensure a daily frequency of cleaning of all common facilities with disinfectant. Cleaning work includes: floors, furniture, fixed work stations including guard posts. The most common contact surfaces (doors and handles, handrails, stair railings, windows and any other equipment where hands can be placed, toilets (including mobile toilets) should be cleaned every 2 hours. The personnel in charge of cleaning must be competent and properly equipped.
  - Air the premises at least twice a day.
  - Organize the use of the canteens in shifts to limit the number of people at any given time in order to respect safety distances. Ensure disinfection by cleaning between each round of meals, including microwave ovens, refrigerators, etc. Strictly enforce the instructions for washing hands with soap and water before meals.
  - If necessary, it is better to use the individual bowl and thermos flask brought by each companion.

#### Work activities :

It is recalled that the current conditions of intervention present risks of degraded operational conditions due to the probable unavailability of personnel, equipment, subcontractors or other resources usual to the operations. Particular attention must therefore be paid to all the "traditional" risks of worksites, and in particular the risks of falls, collisions, those related to electricity, machinery, chemicals, load bearing and postures.

- Limit the number of people to limit the risks of encounter and contact.
- Limit coactivity by reorganizing operations. If necessary, request support from the SPS Coordinator.
- Allocate tools individually, except when work gloves are routinely worn. Limit the loan of equipment between journeymen. Avoid the exchange of equipment or, failing that, disinfect equipment between two companions if necessary.

- Put in place a traffic plan that allows a distance of 1m between people to be respected, especially when crossing paths. Give priority to circular traffic.
- Organise the reception of materials and equipment in such a way as to avoid any physical contact.
- Present the exceptional organisation of the work before each shift and each half-day.
- Before each start of work, check that the operating procedures allow the distance of at least 1m to be respected. If this is not possible, wear surgical type II-R goggles and masks (higher protection masks may be used, including cartridge or power-assisted ventilation masks). If this is not possible, stop the activity.
- Surgical masks and cartridges should be disposed of in a waste bag after each operation. Non-disposable masks and glasses will be wiped with disinfectant wipes inside and out.

Activities on the clients' premises - specific measures :

- Check with the client prior to the intervention the intervention conditions allowing to respect the sanitary instructions (standard form attached in appendix) :
  - o Reception place and procedure
  - o Special instructions to be respected (hospital environment...)
  - o Provision of hygiene facilities (washing, cleaning, etc.)