

Risk Assessment – COVID-19

Undertaking Scaffolding, Mast Climber & Hoist Activity

The document aims to interpret guidance produced by the UK Government and other construction sector bodies, by considering how this should be applied by the scaffolding industry to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and is correct as of dated 09 July 2020. Should this advice be updated, the risk assessment should be updated accordingly.

Additional specific detail has been added in relation to scaffolding activity only, therefore, this document should be read in conjunction with standard work activity RAMS, and it is not intended to replace them.

Foreman will carry out SOP Checklist prior to accessing site. If any concerns are raised operatives must stop work and speak with their Line Manager without delay. All completed SOP Checklists must be sent to depots at the end of each week for record purposes.

As a best practice initiative, consideration should be given to temperature monitoring and COVID-19 testing. This should ideally be carried out at Principal Contractor level, when workers are arriving at site.

A hierarchical approach should be given to the control measures within this document.

Risk	Hazard	Persons Affected	Control Measures
Travelling to site next to possible carriers of COVID-19	Potential biological hazard. Contracting the disease via airborne droplets (such as coughing /sneezing) bodily contact with an infected person, and/or contact with a contaminated item	Operatives & third parties.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All employees to complete the Covid-19 health screening questionnaire each day before reporting for work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons displaying COVID-19 symptoms or is aware of other household members displaying symptoms, should not travel, and should adhere to the guidance at this link. • Operatives must self-declare that they that they are not showing any symptoms. 2. Travel alone using own transport/company vehicle (or with other members of your household). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing recommendations are achieved and therewith reduced potential for contracting/transmitting COVID-19. • Control over hygiene measures is ensured. • Wash 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. 3. Travel in the same vehicle with the same workmates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing recommendations are not achieved and therewith increased risk of contracting/transmitting COVID-19. • Maintain the same individual team members travelling in the vehicle, these

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			<p>team members should also work together on site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All gang members to wash 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. • Maintain good circulation of air in vehicle where possible with windows open to increase ventilation. • The driver is responsible for implementing an increased level of hygiene within the vehicle. This should include a pre-journey wipe down of all surfaces, using alcohol-based cleaning wipes, or similar. • Where a vehicle has been used by someone displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or a confirmed a case, the vehicle they were travelling in should be decontaminated thoroughly. If this is not practicable, the vehicle must not be used for a minimum of 72 hours. • If a team member becomes unwell or needs to self-isolate, he/she should not be replaced in that vehicle and employers should ensure that any replacement gang member uses another mode of transport. This will reduce the potential for transmission and contraction of the virus outside of the normal gang and their families. • Provide those travelling in the same vehicle suitable face coverings and follow the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operating Procedure (V5) for travelling. <p>4. Travel using public transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use public transport if social distancing can be maintained and it is not possible to use other forms of transport. • Social distancing recommendations are likely not achieved and therewith increased risk of contracting/transmitting COVID-19. • Any individual intending to use public transport who is displaying COVID-19 symptoms or is aware of other household members displaying symptoms, should not travel. • Staggered start times should be introduced to reduce the numbers of persons on public transport at peak times. • Face coverings must be worn if using public transport.
Undertaking scaffolding operations next to	Potential biological hazard. Contracting the disease via airborne droplets (such as	Operatives & third parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2m social distancing recommendation should be obeyed, to avoid the need for close working, thereby reducing the risk of contracting/transmitting COVID-19.

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possible carriers of the COVID-19 virus.	coughing /sneezing) bodily contact with an infected person, and/or contact with a contaminated item.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close working (i.e. breaching the 2m separation recommendation) should be avoided. • Where obeying the 2m social distancing recommendation is not possible, an additional risk assessment should be undertaken to determine if additional personal protective equipment is required to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and to facilitate the use of a '1m + with mitigation' approach Further guidance on face coverings can be found in the document "Working Safely During Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Construction and Other Outdoor Work)". • Where possible erecting and dismantling should be undertaken maintaining the 2m distance (e.g. basing out using a temporary foot lift to ensure stability of the standards or fixing a ledger or transoms maintaining at least 1 bay between operatives on the same lift.) • Erect the scaffold systematically to avoid the need for operatives to pass each other along the same lift in close proximity. • Use mechanical handling equipment (e.g. material hoists, lift trucks etc.) and handling aids (e.g. gin wheels and ropes/hand lines) to avoid close working when raising and lowering materials. • Longer materials (such as tubes or boards 2.4m or longer) can be passed hand to hand whilst maintaining the 2.0m distancing. • For handling shorter materials, normally passed hand to hand, alternative methods will need to be adopted to avoid close working (e.g. raising materials by placing on the lift above allowing them to be collected by another operative obeying the 2.0m distance). • Operatives should avoid positioning themselves directly above and below each other when passing materials to avoid close working (e.g. chaining materials diagonally or adopting an offset on adjacent lifts). • Small components, such as fittings, normally passed hand to hand, should be handled in proprietary bags or buckets. As per shorter materials (above) alternative methods will need to be adopted to avoid close working (e.g. moving the bag of fittings along a lift and placing it down to allow it to be collected by another operative obeying the 2.0m distance). • Note – It is possible to mitigate close working if working gangs adhere to other controls specified within this document, including consistency of workmates travel arrangements. This should be considered as a last resort and maintaining distancing recommendations is preferred.

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Risk	Hazard	Persons Affected	Control Measures
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operatives should refrain from touching their face, eyes and mouth with their hands, even when wearing gloves. Hands must be thoroughly washed using soap and water for 20 seconds prior to touching any bare skin or orifice (including eating, drinking and smoking). Hand sanitisers (60% minimum alcohol content) may be used where handwashing facilities are not available – but hand washing should always be preferred. Hand tools and scaffolding materials must be considered to be contaminated at all times and must not be handled without suitable hand protection. Thorough hand washing is required at break times and at the end of each shift.
Workers needing to rescue colleagues in the event of a fall.	Potential biological hazard. Contracting the disease via airborne droplets (such as coughing /sneezing) bodily contact with an infected person, and/or contact with a contaminated item.	Operatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general principles of COVID-19 rescue procedure Rev 02 (09/07/20) will be followed at all times for facilitating a rescue, to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 during rescue operations. Operatives must be trained on the use of rescue equipment.
Communication during site activities	Potential biological hazard. Contracting the disease via airborne droplets (such as coughing /sneezing) bodily contact with an infected person, and/or contact with a contaminated item.	Operatives and third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inductions should be carried out electronically and remotely where possible. Where sites cannot accommodate this then 2m social distancing should take place in a well-ventilated area. Meetings should be carried out using remote techniques where possible. This includes the sharing of documents. Operatives should only attend the site office on agreement with the management team and must keep a safe distance. Communication should be via text, phone calls, email and other electronic means. Do not share mobile phones and other electronic devices. Visits to site from Contracts Managers or Directors are required to ensure compliance with the measures herein and any other, locally instigated control measures. Communication with operatives on site should be at a safe distance. Limit number of persons attending meetings or toolbox talks by having additional meetings. Hold externally where possible.
Lack of awareness relating to COVID-19.	Potential biological hazard. Contracting the disease via airborne droplets (such as	Operatives/ third parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All operatives must be thoroughly briefed on this risk assessment, associated guidance and local site rules and must provide signatures of acknowledgement to confirm their understanding.

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General Site Arrangements (Principal Contractor Obligations)			
Risk	Hazard	Persons Affected	Control Measures
Accessing site and using onsite welfare facilities next to possible carriers of the COVID-19	Potential biological hazard. Contracting the disease via airborne droplets (such as coughing /sneezing) bodily contact with an infected person, and/or contact with a contaminated item	Operatives & third parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Contractors should ensure that they comply with the recommendations within the Construction Leadership Council’s Site Operating Procedure (V5) for: • Site access and egress. (As best practice consideration to be given to temperature monitoring and COVID-19 testing, subject to availability). • Handwashing (additional facilities) • Toilet facilities (additional cleaning measures) • Canteens and rest areas (additional cleaning measures) • Changing facilities, showers and drying rooms (additional provision) • Where the above cannot be achieved, works should cease, and the advice of a Supervisor/ Manager should be sought. • Operatives must comply with the site’s requirements for protecting workers against coronavirus (COVID-19).