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Factsheet for case **AT-2020-13/588**

Instructions of the social partners for dealing with construction sites based on COVID-19

Factsheet generated on 04 May 2020, 08:16

Country	Austria, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, started on 26 March 2020
Type	Tripartite agreement
Category	Protection of workers at the workplace – Occupational health and safety
Case created	14 April 2020 (updated 02 May 2020)

Background information

The Austrian government did not want to halt construction work in times of the pandemic, so the social partners in the construction sector worked out, in cooperation with the labour inspectorate, instructions on how to protect workers against the Coronavirus in the construction industry. This resulted in a guide that was published on 26 March 2020. It applies to all workers working on construction sites. The set of instructions complements the general COVID-19 protective measures (i.e. distance of at least one meter to each other; wash hands thoroughly; do not touch your face; cough in the bent elbows or sneeze in a handkerchief, which is then immediately disposed of) - see cases AT-2020-12/590 and AT-2020-12/589 in this database.

Content of measure

To comply with occupational hygiene on the construction site, sanitary measures must be taken in accordance with Section 34 and Section 35 of the Construction Worker Protection Ordinance (BauV). Additional measures in the areas industrial hygiene; organisational measures; work equipment; risk groups; minimization obligation during transport; dormitories; and coordination of work must also be implemented:

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE:

- provision of disinfectants and regular disinfection of the sanitary and social facilities on the construction site in short cleaning intervals
- when using vehicles, construction machinery or tools, disinfection must be carried out by other personnel before use;

- if disinfection is not possible in individual cases, gloves can be used as an alternative

ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES:

- staggering in terms of time or place to maintain the necessary distance when changing clothes, during breaks
- plan work processes according to the technical possibilities so that the number of employees working at one location at the same time is as small as possible.

WORK EQUIPMENT:

- if the protective distance of at least one meter cannot be maintained workers must have mouth-nose protection or a full visor

MINIMISATION OBLIGATION DURING TRANSPORT:

- the number of employees must be minimised, taking into account the necessary minimum distance of one meter

DORMITORIES

- must not be occupied by more than one person

Use of measure

The measure has to be applied on all construction sites.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Social partners jointly	Particular professions Sector specific set of companies	No special funding required

Social partners

Role of social partners	Agreed (outcome)
Form of involvement	Direct consultation

The sectoral social partners in the construction industry developed this guide in cooperation with the labour inspectorate.

Sectors and occupations

This case is sector-specific (only private sector).

Economic area	Sector (NACE level 2)
F - Construction	F41 Construction of buildings
	F42 Civil engineering
	F43 Specialised construction activities

This case is occupation-specific.

Occupation (ISCO level 2)
Building and related trades workers, excluding electricians
Drivers and mobile plant operators

Sources

- 26 March 2020: Instructions of the social partners for dealing with construction sites based on COVID-19 (www.wko.at)
- 03 April 2020: Construction work and COVID-19 (www.proge.at)