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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

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| 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 15 April 2020) |

Background Information

The 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 corona virus 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 / 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 minimized, taking into account the necessary minimum distance of one meter

DORMITORIES

- must not be occupied by more than one person

Use of measure

to be applied at 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 not occupation-specific.

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)