

## AUSMAR NOTIFICATION: GUIDELINE TO MANAGING COVID-19 AT NEW CONSTRUCTION WORKSITES

The HIA has recently released a guide documenting a number of areas that we can improve and adapt our workplaces to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 is significantly reduced.

While not all of these recommendations are practical for our business at this time, Ausmar has chosen to adopt the following guidelines, and will continue to update these guidelines as Government advice, time, technology, and circumstance permits.

### 1 Ensure the Government's social distancing criteria are met at all times by:

- Limiting access to any building site to essential workers only, as per the building program for that day
- Applying the 1 person per 4 square metre rule for work being undertaken in enclosed or internal spaces
- Limiting any external visitors or third parties (e.g. building inspections) to be by exception, and at a time when no one else is on site apart from the site supervisor
- Providing all necessary clear work zones and workstations for dedicated tasks

### 2 Ensure the Government's self-isolation rules are met at all times by requesting trade/supplier cooperation to:

- **CRITICAL: Keep any person displaying cold, flu or similar symptoms away from sites until the symptoms have passed or a clearance by a medical professional has been provided to the site supervisor**
- Enforce the 14-day self-isolation policy for anyone returning from overseas or from interstate
- Keep any person who has been in close contact with such persons and required to self-isolate off site.

### 3 Where available product supply exists, ensure adequate hygiene facilities are provided on site for all workers by:

- Providing adequate cleaning products and facilities (where possible) for users to clean common areas (if applicable) after use.
- Encouraging trades/suppliers to carry adequate hygiene products (such as hand sanitiser), and regularly use when on site
- Providing access to water and hand soap stations and encouraging the practice of regular handwashing
- Discouraging the shared use of tools and plant where possible
- Where use of common tools/plant (Ausmar owned) is essential, ensuring that cleaning of equipment before and after each use takes place (by user)
- Increasing ventilation for building sites and common buildings when being used

### 4 Where available product supply exists, ensuring that all workers have access to appropriate safety equipment

- Ensuring trades and suppliers on site are providing all workers with access to personal protective equipment including gloves, masks and eye protection appropriate to the work they are performing on site.
- Ensuring that relevant personal protective equipment (such as disposable gloves) is available for use by all external visitors or third parties

### 5 Manage project scheduling to minimise overlaps and numbers of people on site by:

- Implementing a 'no more than 6 workers inside a house' rule, and a reduced 'no more than 2 workers' rule for smaller enclosed spaces such as units
- Scheduling sub-trades and work to minimise people on site
- Having designated work zones to separate workers performing different tasks
- Scheduling/staggering break times for workers i.e. lunch and morning break to avoid on-site gatherings during these times

### 6 Facilitate contactless deliveries, payments and travelling out of peak times by:

- Going contactless/paperless as far as practicable with orders and site deliveries
- Maintaining work site operation times to allow workers to travel to and from site in off-peak times

### 7 Facilitate site inductions and updates on latest Government requirements by:

- Undertaking online inductions prior to permitting anyone on to site
- Conducting regular virtual toolbox discussions to enable workers to ask questions and stay informed on risks and hazards, including specifically about latest Government COVID-19 updates, without actual group congregations.
- Providing updated information and new policies via the Ausmar Trade Portal, including specific updates to COVID-19 related policies
- Advising all workers of the steps that will be taken should a person enter the site with the virus or advise the site supervisor that they have been in close contact.

### 8 Manage the customer by:

- Not permitting access on site while work is being undertaken
- Not permitting access on site without the escort of the site supervisor
- Ensuring that customers are not touching any surfaces etc. while on site
- Ensuring that customers are asked if they have been overseas, are showing symptoms, or have the virus prior to access on site

It is vital that we adapt to this crisis, and demonstrate our ability and commitment to creating healthy, safe working environments during this period.

**Your cooperation is critical to keeping construction sites open for business, and your assistance in applying the above guidelines when attending site for yourself and your workers is greatly appreciated.**

The construction industry is a firm pillar in keeping our economy moving forward. By adhering to the above, in addition to the general guidelines and measures being issued and updated regularly by the Australian Government, we can continue to be a driving force in keeping our economy moving