

**OCCUMED**

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## LINKING COVID-19 RISK AND EXPOSURE AT WORK

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### INTRODUCTION

- ▶ See the end at the beginning
- ▶ Need to understand the links in legislation
- ▶ Need to undertake risk assessments
- ▶ Need to link risk and mitigation to limit exposure

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### LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- ▶ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety Act (OH&S Act)
  - ▶ Construction Regulations
  - ▶ Hazardous Biological Agents Regulations
- ▶ Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COID Act)
- ▶ Basic Conditions of Employment Act
- ▶ Disaster Management Act
- ▶ Covid-19 Occupational Health and Safety Measures in Workplaces Covid-19 (C19 OHS), 2020 (Revised)
  - ▶ Direction by the Minister of DEL (R639, 4 June 2020)

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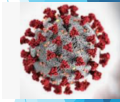
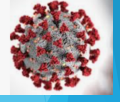
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### Occupational Health and Safety Act


- ▶ S8 Duties of Employer
- ▶ S9 Duties to own and other
- ▶ S10 General duties of manufacturers and others regarding articles and substances for use at work
- ▶ S13 Duty to Inform
- ▶ S14 General duties of employees at work
- ▶ S16 CEO charged with certain duties
- ▶ S17-18 H&S Representatives
- ▶ S19 H&S committees
- ▶ S24 Report to Inspector regarding certain incidents
- ▶ S25 Report to CI re occupational diseases



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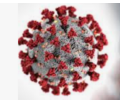
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### Compensation Act (No. 130 of 1993)


- ▶ Definition of an accident:
  - ▶ *'An accident arising out of and in the course of an employee's employment and resulting in a personal injury, illness or the death of the employee'*
- ▶ No stats relative to contracting COVID at work in the Construction sector



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### Updated legislative Requirements


- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Policy
- ▶ Submission of documentation for employers with more than 500 employees to the DEL
- ▶ Inform H&S Committee
- ▶ Address vulnerable workers who are at risk
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Appoint COVID-19 compliance officer
- ▶ Minimize people at work



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**ROLE OF THE CLIENT**

► Clients provide the following documents - see COVID-19 as a design change as it is significant:

- Site specific baseline H&S risk assessment (BRA)
- Site specific H&S specification (SSHSS)
  - Both aligned to the developing bill of quantities (BoQ) and is linked to design
- Developed through Stages 2-4 for inclusion in the tender for the project (detailed to set project standard) and includes the BoQ

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**ROLE OF THE CLIENT (2)**

► H&S plan is required by principal contractors for each level of the project (horizontal & vertical) and includes a BoQ that would include aspects relating to COVID-19 on site

- Requires PrCHSA approval and monitoring through the stages
- Principal contractor (PC) is required to provide their contractors with site specific H&S specifications
  - Contractors are required to compile H&S plans for approval by PC
- **Budgeting for H&S to be included at tender stage by clients and PCs**
  - **Implies the need for a specific BoQ**

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**The Szymberski (1997) Time / Safety Influence Curve**

High

Low

Start

Project Schedule

End

Gambatese, 2013

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### HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Financial resources by client;
- ▶ Clients not enforcing financial resources for projects;
- ▶ Transportation, to, from and on sites;
- ▶ Manual labour for physical tasks and tasks that will not allow for social distancing;
- ▶ Workers arriving at work with a temperature or other symptoms of Covid-19;
- ▶ Management of isolating potentially infected workers, and tracing of family/contacts;
- ▶ Ablution facilities;

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### HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES (2)

- ▶ The lack of clean welfare facilities where workers congregate for lunch break;
- ▶ Lack of cleaning and hand washing facilities;
- ▶ Confined working areas;
- ▶ Sharing drinking utensils/food;
- ▶ Too few emergency supplies, first aiders and first aid boxes, and
- ▶ Not linking exposure to work

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### FACTORS INFLUENCING RISK OF COVID-19?

- ▶ 3 'Ds'
- ▶ DISTANCE
  - ▶ The further apart, the less likely to be infected
- ▶ DOSE
  - ▶ Minimum time of exposure as increased time increases risk of exposure
- ▶ DISPERSION
  - ▶ Smaller particles remain in the air longer, disperse more quickly outside and in the sun

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SOLUTIONS

► rotate

► stagger

► include shifts

► off site work



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RECOGNIZING THE RISK

BASE LINE RISK ASSESSMENT

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Risk Rating multiplier: Low = 1; Medium = 2; High = 3

PREPARED BY: OCCURED 1/a Claire Deacon

Note: This is a broad overview of the activities expected and to be addressed during any significant changes to the project, in line with Construction Regulations available during the during the construction stage, i.e. Consolidation of activities where overlap or applicable throughout the project (plant, material or other common activities). Compliance with all the applicable legislation is required. Penalties for non-compliance will be applied where issues not addressed as per the H&S Specification (as amended).

REFERENCES/ABBREVIATIONS: OHSWA Occupational Health and Safety Act (applies overall); GAB = General Administration Regulations; GSR = General Safety Regulations; HBR = Hazardous Biological Regulations; CCM = COVID-19 Control Manager; CHS = Construction Regulations; HCSR = Hazardous Chemical Substances Regulations; FR = Facilities Regulations; ER = Electrical Installation Regulations; DMR = Driven Machinery Regulations; PFR = Pressure Equipment Regulations; TRA = Road Traffic Safety Act; SANS = 1200 (unless stated); SANS 10085 = Access Scaffolding; SANS 10083 = Audiotape standards; SANS 1300, 10342, 10400 & 2001 = Building & Electrical Standards; SARTSM = South African Roads and Traffic Signs Manual; PC = Principal Contractor; National Disaster Management Act (Regulations) (NDMA).

ALL DOCUMENTATION TO COMPLY WITH ALL LEGISLATED GUIDELINES RELATING TO COVID-19 UNTIL THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT IS LIFTED		BASELINE : RAW RISK		CONTROL MEASURES NECESSARY TO REDUCE RISK		BASELINE: RESIDUAL RISK	
ASPECTS	HAZARD/RISK	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE	SEVERITY OF CONSEQUENCE	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE	SEVERITY OF CONSEQUENCE	LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE	SEVERITY OF CONSEQUENCE

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REVIEW THE RISKS

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Spread of droplet infection through coughing, sneezing when in close contact

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Update the policy, method statements and HIRA for PPE. No employee and or visitor will be allowed on site without a face mask. N95 masks only for medical or high risk workers. Adequate training must be provided in the correct use and disposal of these masks. Cloth masks must be washed and ironed daily. Face shields protect mouth, nose and eyes. Daily cleaning of face shields. No sharing of PPE will be permitted. Adequate supervision, inclusion induction, policy, method statements and HIRAs. Covid PPE does not replace conventional PPE.

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Monitoring during the project (2)

Report to COIDA if a positive case contracted at work  
Issue of masks and other PPE noted in HIRA

Training of wearing of masks  
Visitors have PPE available  
Enforcement of wearing of PPE and social distancing  
Ventilation – air conditioning or means of ventilation in offices, workshops and meeting areas

COVID-19 monitors and appointments in place

Isolation area available

TBA  
Partial

Will be monitored  
Will be monitored  
Will be monitored

Air conditioners in some offices

Needs to be revised to include Monitor, Manager  
Yes

Will be monitored  
Needs to be updated

Air conditioners not to be used unless HEPA filters have been installed and evidence thereof

Will be monitored

Cleaning routines to be drawn up

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Monitoring during the project (3)

The Method statement, HIRA and Safe operating procedures all need revision to include the projects and dilutions to be used, and link to one another that currently has not been done. Attention to detail is required.

- Medical surveillance records on site, however, any at risk workers need to be determined and screened for fitness for work relative to COVID-19;
- Cables were still noted as being an issue on site;
- The safe operating procedure does not take into account the type of cleaning, the chemicals in use of the PPE needed, or frequency of cleaning, or who will be responsible;
- The HIRA for cleaning of the offices is a cut and paste and does not address the issues or the risks. This is to be revised according to the protocol that has been developed and advised by the National Institute of Occupational Health that was sent for information purposes, and
- The method statement produced is for pre-cast elements, and needs to include the chemicals to be used

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