

Explanatory Note:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines for the Building and Construction Industry (Revision 4) 24 June 2020

In line with National Cabinet decisions, the Victorian Government and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is progressively reviewing its directions and community restrictions. Accordingly, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines for the Building and Construction Industry have been reviewed in light of those directions and advice from the office of the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

Revision 4 of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines dated 24 June 2020 has now been approved for issue. This revision contains minor updates and an amendment to Clause 3.7 of the Guidelines with respect to the available control measures and occupancy of hoists and lifts. These amendments have been endorsed by DHHS and checked to ensure that they can be implemented in accordance with regulatory occupational health and obligations and guidance material from WorkSafe Victoria.

Essentially, Site Safety Committees are empowered to undertake a risk assessment of the control measures on their own sites to determine the appropriate occupancy the particular size, configuration and use of the hoists/lifts. It is imperative that all relevant control measures are adopted from a list of available measures and that this assessment is done in full consultation with the site safety committee and/or Health and Safety Representatives.

WorkSafe Victoria has produced a simple checklist of site wide control measures which should be used as a broad site audit of compliance with recommended measures such as hygiene, workplace mapping, employee screening and physical distancing.

Specifically in relation to the control measures for occupancy of hoists and lifts, Clause 3.7 of the Guidelines now provides a suite of measures which must be considered by the site safety committee (or HSRs) and applied on site where relevant. New to Version 4 of the Guidelines is the option to conduct temperature screening of workers and the provision to individuals of P2 face masks when travelling in hoists/lifts.

Note that not all sites will be able to adopt all available measures, therefore occupancy of hoists and lifts of a similar size may differ between sites. The Industry Taskforce encourages the attendance on site by the Industry Liaison Officer, Michael Paynter to assist the safety committee consideration with the risk assessment of their site and hoists/lifts. Michael can be contacted on Ph 0418268555 or email: michael.paynter@dhhs.vic.gov.au

At this time of increased community transmission of the Coronavirus, the release of Revision 4 of the Guidelines to your members and constituents provides a further opportunity to emphasise the importance of compliance with the Guidelines in all respects.