

Changes to South East Water's construction auditing activities during stage 4 restrictions

20 August 2020

At South East Water, we're committed to the safety of our employees and the community, and are reducing the movement of our employees and contractors between sites during the coronavirus (COVID-19) stage 4 restrictions. This will impact the way we undertake construction auditing activities during this time.

Summary of construction auditing changes

- We will be implementing remote auditing activities during the current restriction period.
- We will determine which Construction Audits we will be attending on site or undertaking remotely, to minimise movement between sites. We'll do this with a risk-based approach.
- Prior to attending any project sites, we'll require the Consultant to provide confirmation in writing to our Construction Auditors and via our Manage Developer Works system, verifying that there is a **High Risk COVIDSafe plan** in place for that project.
- We will look to complete audits and maintain high quality standards by requesting detailed evidence as part of any remote audits undertaken.
- Where possible, we will seek to defer any non-essential inspections during the restriction period and will liaise with Industry on a project-by-project basis.

South East Water auditing approach during COVID-19 Stage 4 restrictions

With the announcement of the COVID-19 stage 4 restrictions period, we've reviewed our position in undertaking construction auditing activities for land development works, in accordance with the government requirements. As part of this review, we've taken the health and wellbeing of our employees and industry members out in the field into consideration.

We put safety first in everything we do. That's why we feel restricting movement of personnel between sites is the best way to keep everyone safe through this challenging period.

Changes adopted by South East Water

We will be focusing on increasing remote audits over the stage 4 restriction period. In accordance with the restriction requirements, we will be adopting remote auditing on a case-by-case basis for various project auditing activities. Subsequently, we'll request photographic evidence, applicable test reports and video monitoring of sites activities shown directly to our Construction Auditors from Contractors or Consultants out on site, during this period.

Remote auditing requirements

Contractors and Consultants are to liaise on a project-by-project basis with our Construction Auditors, to clarify which projects we will audit remotely during the stage 4 restrictions. Our Construction Auditors will be able to then indicate what evidence is required to be provided for projects not audited out on site, in order to complete our audits accordingly.

Booking test requests and verification Form submissions

Test requests and verification form submissions may continue to be submitted via our Manage Developer Works system during the stage 4 restriction period. Prior to submitting any requests and forms, Consultants are to liaise with our Construction Auditors so that appropriate arrangements may be made and are acceptable to South East Water on a project-by-project basis. This will include completing a combination of field inspections and remote auditing during this period.

Deferral of Inspections

Where possible, we're requesting for inspections to be deferred until after the stage 4 restriction period. We understand that this may not always be possible and ask Contractors and Consultants to liaise with South East Water and our Construction Auditors directly to discuss how audits may be undertaken, in accordance with the details above.

Please contact our Construction Monitoring Manager Luciano Giannone on 9552 3251 or luciano.giannone@sew.com.au for any further enquiries, in regards to our construction auditing activities.

Development Agreement Conditions

If there are any Development Agreement contractual implications as a result of these changes, please contact our Development Solutions Manager Damien Sherlock on 9552 3260, or damien.sherlock@sew.com.au

Working with the Industry

We understand some of these current restrictions will lead to additional administration works and potentially some delays in your land development projects.

We remain committed to providing a high level of service to the land development industry in this changed environment. We will continue to work within the government requirements and implement changes to our processes accordingly.

We are all going through these changed conditions together and with a combined effort, we can continue to work collaboratively in these difficult times.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to the community safety over this period.

We're here to help,
South East Water's Land Development Team