

22 June 2022

Industry Circular

To: All Employers and Employees within the Civil Engineering Industry

Managing Exposure to SARS-COV-2 in the Workplace

On the expiry of the declaration of the national state of disaster, the Regulations and the Directions will cease to have legal effect. Because there remains an ongoing need to prevent and mitigate the risks associated with SARS-CoV-2 exposure in the workplace, it is necessary to incorporate those provisions in the regulations and the direction relevant to preventing and mitigating those risks.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No 85 of 1993) (OHSA), read with the regulations and incorporated standards, requires the employer to provide and maintain as far as reasonably practicable a working environment that is safe and without risks to the health of workers and to take such steps as may be reasonably practicable to limit or mitigate the hazard or potential hazard.

For the purposes of OHSA in the workplace to which this Code applies, the identifiable hazard relating to COVID-19 faced by workers, is the virus infecting a worker, the virus transmission by an infected person or other workers in the workplace and the risk of serious illness or death if infected.

The regulations for Hazardous Biological Agents, 2022 (HBA Regulations) list coronavirus as a listed hazardous biological agent, classed as Group 3. It therefore places legal responsibilities on employers in respect of employers to limit the exposure and mitigate the risks of infection by SARS-CoV-2.

All employers and employees in the industry are encouraged to read and understand these regulations and to conduct risk assessments and implement control measures to limit infection.

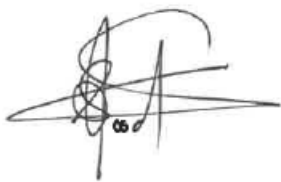
The following Government Notices relate to the above:

- Code of Practice: Managing exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in the workplace, 2022 Gazette No 46058 No. R. 1896
- Hazardous Biological Agents Regulations, 2022 Gazette No 46051 No. R. 1887

These can be downloaded from our website by following the link www.bccei.co.za

For further enquiries please contact the BCCEI on (011) 450 4966 or info@bccei.co.za.

Thank You



Kevin Moodley
Acting General Secretary