

Memo

From: The Federation of Norwegian Construction Industries (BNL)
To: Industries in BNL
Date: 30/4/2020, version 7
Case: Recommendations regarding infection prevention and control - facilitation of continued operations

Below are BNL's recommendations regarding the facilitation of continued operations at construction sites in accordance with the necessary rules for infection prevention and control. These recommendations are subject to change depending on what is considered necessary to limit the spread of the Coronavirus disease.

Cooperation regarding facilitation

At this time, infection prevention and control efforts must be implemented in line with all other critical safety and security work at construction sites. Cooperation between employee representatives and project management is currently essential for the facilitation of continued work and operations at construction sites. A Coronavirus representative should be named at each construction site, who is tasked with ensuring compliance with the rules from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health as well as internal rules.

Social distancing

Maintain preferred a 2-metre (2m) separation, but not less than a 1-metre (1m) separation in order to prevent infection.

Portable buildings as offices

Physical meetings:

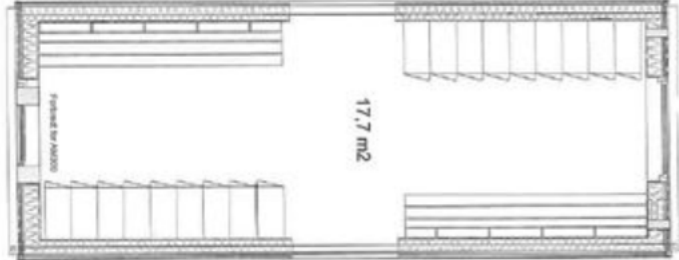
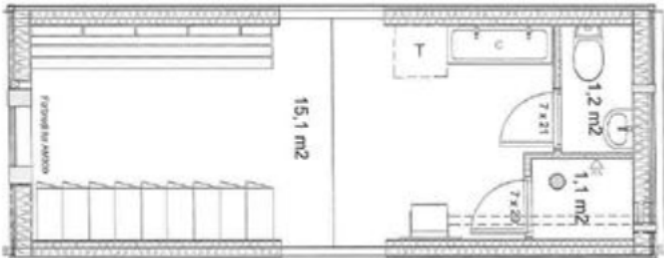
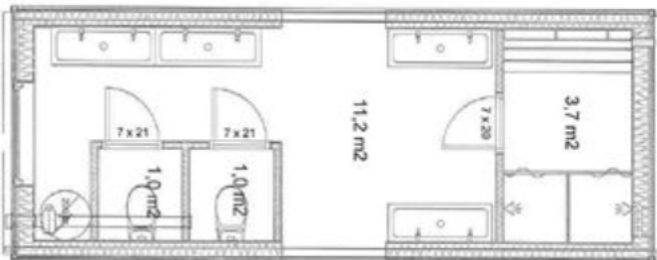
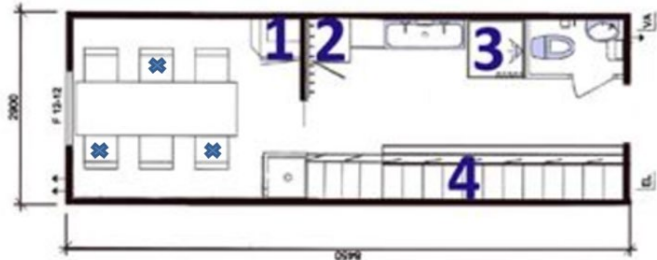
- Physical meetings shall be avoided with the use of teleconferencing or digital conferencing solutions.
- If digital meetings cannot be held, physical meetings may be held provided the number of participants does not exceed five individuals, and the recommended distance of two meters between participants can be maintained throughout the meeting.
- When holding physical meetings, one meeting participant shall be responsible for ensuring the maintenance of the two-meter distance between meeting participants.
- Consider whether meetings can be implemented by connecting meeting participants in smaller meeting groups who communicate digitally.

Office management:

- Personnel whose presence at the construction site is not required in order to perform their duties shall work via home office. Individuals, whose presence is not required at the building site, shall be expelled and this deviation shall be reported.
- Distribute office spaces in such a manner that 'close working environments' are avoided. Meeting rooms should also be utilised as offices and consider whether additional portable buildings should be obtained.

Portable buildings with changing and break rooms

- Limit the number of individuals who may use the changing room simultaneously. Disseminate these rules. Facilitate shifts in such a manner that personnel can take turns using the changing and break room in order to reduce proximity to one another during changing and washing up.

	<p>Changing room for up to 18 individuals:</p> <p>No more than maximum three individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.</p>
	<p>Changing room for up to nine individuals:</p> <p>No more than maximum two individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.</p>
	<p>Sanitary facilities:</p> <p>No more than maximum two individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.</p>
	<p>Combined break and sanitary facilities:</p> <p>No more than maximum three individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.</p>

Instructions with examples of limitations on simultaneous use of changing rooms.

- Shared food/cafeteria arrangements shall be suspended, and personnel shall be advised to bring their own lunches. Shared beverages such as water, coffee and tea may remain available. Use disposable cups.
- Provide paper towel dispensers to ensure the availability of paper towels in order to avoid skin contact when using coffee pots/pitchers. Post notices regarding prevention of such skin contact.

- Cafeteria tables shall be washed using warm water and soap after lunch breaks are over. In case of alternating use of cafeteria tables, tables shall be washed in same manner between each sitting.
- Arrange furniture in such a manner that it is easy to comply with the requirement to maintain a two-meter distance between individuals.
- Shared refrigerator must be disinfected twice daily, or the use thereof must be suspended.
- Make sure handwashing/sanitising is available to everyone entering or exiting. Ensure good hand hygiene by providing and restocking soap and paper towels at all sinks.
- All work on the construction site shall be performed using gloves. Gloves shall be removed and 'parked' when personnel enter the portable building. Create solutions for 'parking of work gloves' in order to prevent contact between the different pair of gloves.
- Portable buildings must be cleaned at least once daily using disinfectants.
- Enhance the cleaning of changing rooms by using disinfectants on potentially contaminated surfaces at least twice daily. This includes surfaces such as railings, door handles, switches, sinks, dispensers etc.
- Disseminate information about the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's instructions regarding infection prevention and control.

Portable buildings as living quarters

The following instructions are provided to reduce the risk of infection among residents living in proximity to one another.

- Do not visit the lodgings of other residents.
- Perform handwashing each time you enter your own lodging.
- Distribute the use of lodgings in a manner that ensures the greatest possible distance between lodgings that are in use.
- Consider whether the workforce can be reduced with a commuter rota ensuring more vacant space in the living quarters.
- Arrange furniture in common areas so that the recommended two-meter distance is easy to maintain. Specify by way of notices the maximum capacity of common areas.

Quarantine

The authorities' guidelines for the home quarantine apply for healthy workers who must quarantine 14 days after entering Norway. Quarantine can be carried out in the living quarters. It is possible to combine such quarantine with work if certain conditions are in place. See further recommendations from BNL. For persons residing in Norway, the home quarantine must be carried out if there has been close contact with infected persons.

COVID-19 Regulations, section 3:

«Close contact» in the context of these Regulations refers to contact in closer proximity than two metres from other persons for more than 15 minutes, or direct physical contact.

Self-isolation when detected infection

If a resident is found to be infected the rules of FHI about self-isolation apply. He or she will need to return home as soon as possible for the completion of self-isolation. If in doubt whether the employee should travel for health reasons, this must be clarified by a physician. Travel must be completed without contact with the outside world. If there is a need for public transport, this must be clarified with a local infection control doctor in advance.

Look up further information about quarantine and self-isolation, also in English:

<https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/coronavirus/infomateriell/informasjon-om-hjemmekarantene-og-isolasjon-pa-ulike-sprak/>

Operation of construction site

- Prepare for alternative work in the operation if supplies fail or personnel are absent.
- Obtain an overview of the status of critical materials and services. Consider whether critical supplies can be expedited.
- Consider whether new risks are created that will require safety measures if parts of the construction site need to be closed.
- Conduct daily meetings in smaller groups.
- Consider and, if possible, implement zoning of the construction site, in such a manner that groups are to the greatest extent possible isolated from one another.
- Ensure that craftsmen (own and others) can maintain a 2-metre (2m) separation, but not less than a 1-metre (1m) separation. If 1m distance cannot be maintained, compensatory infection prevention measures must be considered using safe-job analysis or the like.
- Avoid safety inspections in groups by dividing safety inspections on the construction site into zones. Have each participant inspect a zone.

Use of cars

- The recommended two-meter separation and minimum distance of one metre (1m) do also apply when driving a car. If 1-metre (1m) distance cannot be maintained, compensatory infection prevention measures must be considered using safe-job analysis or the like.
- Use gloves while driving.
- Clean with disinfections potential contaminated surfaces such as steering wheel, gear shifter, operating handles and inner and outer door handles every day and before change of the driver.

Detailed information regarding the spread of infection

See the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's website:

<https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/coronavirus/fakta/fakta-om-koronavirus-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>