

Safety & Health Alert No. 15/2021

Appeal for Support to Implement Compulsory Testing Measures on Works Sites

Date : 8 Mar 2021
Ref. : HD(C)TS 4/49/26

This is to appeal for support of works contractors to the implementation of the compulsory testing requirements on construction sites. The measure spearheaded by the Construction Industry Council (CIC) and the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA), require all site staff to present negative COVID-19 test results conducted within the past 14 days when entering construction sites for work. The measures were soft launched on 16 February. To prepare for the full implementation on 22 February 2021, salient points are highlighted in ensuing paragraphs for attention by main contractors and resident site staff as appropriate so as to ensure a smooth and sound implementation of the compulsory testing measures for the industry.

A. Scope of the negative test result requirement

1. Coverage: The requirement for negative test result applies to BOTH construction workers and other site personnel who are employed to work at sites (including those employed by contractors, consultants and the clients) such as resident site staff, on-site security guards, on-site safety officers, on-site clerks, amah, drivers, etc.
2. Exclusion: The requirement is NOT applying to visitors e.g. those delivering construction material/food/other supplies, those who are conducting periodic visits (e.g. statutory Technical Competent Persons (TCPs), representatives from Independent Checkers, non-resident Safety Officer) or entering the sites in an ad-hoc manner for meetings/site inspections (e.g. non-resident Client representative, non-resident Authorised Person, Registered Structural Engineer, Registered Geotechnical Engineer, non-resident Quantity Surveyor, engineers from design office, audit team, non-resident government officers), even they will stay at sites for more than a few hours. Formulation of

preventive measures is generally risk-based and these visitors are not subject to the same level of risk as those working in the construction sites e.g. they have a shorter time of stay, normally are not using rest area, etc.

3. Need for COVID-19 measures for VISITORS: While visitors are not subject to the negative test result requirement, it is still important to ensure and show that visitors are still subject to COVID-19 preventive measures as they should have been put in place on construction sites. Contractors should keep a register of visitors and require visitors to adopt preventive measures such as temperature check, personal hygiene, wearing mask, social distancing, etc. and any further advice of Centre for Health Protection. Larger sites should best have a separate visitor's entrance.
4. Please make the above points clear to your colleagues for smooth operation.

B. Four forms of assistance required ((a) to (d) below)

(a) Daily checking of negative test results at entrance gates of all sites starting from 22 February 2021

5. Starting from 22 February 2021, main contractors should deploy resources at site entrances to check that all workers and site personnel should have valid negative COVID-19 results of tests conducted within the past 14 days when entering the sites for work. The Attachment 1 shows options to implement checking of negative test results.
6. Contractors please implement the above checking at entrance gates, they should be supportive to those workers and site personnel who could not show the required negative result proof to enter the sites by assisting them to receive FREE testing through the various options of testing services set out in Attachment 2 or other justified facilitation measures as appropriate.
7. Contractors please check daily that the above daily checking is in place at the works site.

(b) Posting of publicity material at entrances of each works construction site starting from 22 February 2021

8. Please post the poster and notice (Attachment 3) prominently at entrances of each works construction site starting from 22 February 2021.

(c) Survey on Compulsory Testing Measures

9. In order to gauge industry's response and status of contractors' implementation of the measures, the CIC has prepared an online survey at Attachment 4 for contractors to fill in and return the online survey by 21 February 2021.

(d) Inspection of the compliance with the negative test result requirement

10. CIC, HKCA and Government will jointly carry out inspections at construction sites (public and private) to confirm compliance with the negative test requirement and identify areas for improvement for follow-up with individual contractors. The inspection will cover those areas as set out in the checklist for all inspectors at Attachment 5. The Attachment 5 shows the priorities for compliance that will be covered in the inspection.

C. Documents for main contractors

11. The following documents will be regularly updated and uploaded to CIC's webpage later.

Attachment 1: Options to implement checking on negative test result at the entrance gates of construction sites

<https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2021/SH-2021-15c-CIC-1.pdf>

Attachment 2: Options of free testing services

<https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2021/SH-2021-15c-CIC-2.pdf>

Attachment 3: Publicity material to be posted at the entrance gates of all works construction sites

<https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2021/SH-2021-15c-CIC-3.pdf>

A3-sized Notice

<https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2021/SH-2021-15c-CIC-3B.pdf>

Banner and Poster

<https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2021/SH-2021-15c-CIC-3P.pdf>

Attachment 4: Questionnaire to be filed in by main contractors and returned to CIC by

21 February <https://forms.gle/k8LVfKSbfDEdMmtt9>

Attachment 5: Checklist showing priority areas for compliance inspection

<https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/mini-site/site-safety/common/resources/alerts/2021/SH-2021-15c-CIC-5.pdf>

D. Enquiries

Should you have any queries regarding the testing services or the checking arrangements, please refer to the CIC's webpage <http://www.cic.hk/chi/main/regulartesting/>. Thanks.