



Prevention measures in construction sites against the Covid -19 epidemic by the Greek Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

Strict measures have been taken and announced by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport to limit the spread of coronavirus Covid-19 on construction sites and public works.

The measures, which are summarized and specified in a letter from **the Secretary General of Infrastructure**, **Mr. Georgios Karagiannis**, to the competent bodies are in accordance with the framework and the guidelines set by EODY (Greek National Public Health Organization) and their implementation is mandatory.

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport in cooperation with the competent Ministry of Health is also considering the possibility, based on the PNP (Law) of 20.3.2020 (Government Journal A 68) and in particular Article 61, to take other, additional, security measures at public works sites, to minimize the possibility of covid-19 virus spread.

Regardless of the enactment of such extraordinary measures, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport emphasizes to all contractors that the faithful observance of the safety and hygiene measures provided by the relevant legislation is required.

As a general direction, special importance must be given, in addition to the individual protection measures of each employee (work gloves, masks, glasses, work uniforms, etc.) and the following special measures:

- Avoid systematically overcrowding of workers at the entrance and exit gates of construction sites, observing the prescribed distances (2m. at least from each other).
- To reduce physical contact between employees by observing the above distances in the canteens and restaurants of the staff, that operate as long as they meet the conditions and criteria set by the health services in the current period (EODY instructions).
- Identify and group different employee attendance times to avoid congestion.
- Sit one by one in each row of seats and in a pessary arrangement in the means of transport to and from the construction sites or in the various workplaces.
- Where the presence of a working doctor is mandatory as responsibility of the contractor and the service, he has to be on the site of the project (as provided by applicable law), and monitor medically the workers on the large construction sites.
- Employees belonging to vulnerable groups and the elderly (eg over 60 years of age) should use the leave and avoid work.

- Employees should be encouraged to report any illness to those in charge and to report by phone if they have had contact with a virus carrier or if someone else in their environment has suspected symptoms.
- Take care of the adequacy of cleaning, disinfectants and disposable hand towels, as well as trash cans in a conspicuous place with regular collection of their contents.
- Thoroughly clean common areas such as toilets, changing rooms, dining areas, gathering places and, if necessary, disinfect from a specialized workshop.
- There should be a container with clean water, soap and hand towels on the
 washing machines for hand washing, in addition to cleaners, chloride solution with
 a ratio of 1 to 10, antiseptics for hands and of course the appropriate cleaners for
 steering wheels and levers for cleaning them, with special care of drivers-drivers
 in shift changes.
- Only the operator-driver can work, without any other assistant or co-driver, on the project machineries.
- Prohibit the presence of external visitors to the construction sites and observe the hygiene measures by the incoming suppliers or others.
- It is preferable to hold teleconferencing and remote work in the working councils and in the planned meetings of the construction sites, where possible.
- No gatherings should be held to avoid congestion and safety distances should be observed during breaks.
- Post the signs at the entrances of the construction sites to remind the employees of the basic instructions of EODY (Greek National Public Health Organization).

"It is necessary to adhere to the above measures in order to emerge victorious in the battle with Covid-19," said the Secretary General of Infrastructure in his letter to the General Directorates and the supervised bodies of the General Secretariat of Infrastructure.