

FOR PSA MEMBERS: LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

12-05-2020

Covid-19 Regulations – Level 4 Lockdown Restrictions

Following the relaxation of lockdown restrictions to level 4, the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) and Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) issued C19 OHS and Circular 18 of 2020 respectively to regulate safety in the workplace.

These Directives provided the safety measures that need to be implemented by employers such as conducting risk assessments, deep cleaning of workplaces, screening of employees, provision of the PEP, maintenance of minimum number of employees in workplace to comply with social distance as well as consider working remotely for employees who are 60 years and above of age and those with underlying medical conditions which make them susceptible to Covid-19 infection.

The PSA was however alerted that the Department is not complying with safety regulations at Ammunition Sub Depot at Naboomspruit where there is no screening of employees, only sporadic hand sanitizing at the gate, no deep cleaning/disinfecting of the offices and there is no observation of social distancing as there is full staff complement at work. Further, it is alleged that only civilians working in the sickbay in Polokwane have been recalled while all other areas have not recalled their employees. The failure to ensure compliance with safety regulations exposes the members to possible infection of the Covid-19.

The Department is failing to provide and maintain a safe and healthy workplace as per section 8 of *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, which places the burden and legal obligations on the employer to prevent such conditions that expose employees to the danger of being infected by the virus.

The PSA will engage the employer to ensure that the employer complies with Safety Regulations to ensure protection of the members as safety of the members is non-negotiable and must always be protected.

Members from other districts are advised to report non-compliance to the PSA at 082 880 8967 or phillip.maponya@psa.co.za.

GENERAL MANAGER