

Feedback: Provincial OHS/COVID-19 meeting: 8 July 2021

The following issues were discussed during a virtual meeting on 8 July 2021:

OHS requirements

The employer reported that since the funds were shifted for the training of first aiders in Phalaborwa, quotations were sourced, but training was not yet completed. Regarding fire extinguishers, it was reported that Public Works is still servicing these. The PSA was not happy with the response and cautioned the employer that should a fire break out, Home Affairs will have to answer and not Public Works. It was further indicated that the employer should plan regarding the servicing or replacing of fire extinguishers. The employer reported that the evacuation plan was not yet completed but it was agreed that Mr Francis will in the meantime assist and report in the next meeting. The PSA is waiting for another inspection of the Phalaborwa office by a Labour inspector.

COVID-19 management

The employer reported that it still has enough PPE. It was reported that the shifting of funds for the replacement of face masks has been done and that an order was issued to the service provider. The masks will be delivered soon.

Employees infected with COVID-19

The employer reported that the number of infected employees since the last meeting was 69 with 66 recoveries and three deaths. Twelve new cases were reported and the offices where employees tested positive were closed for disinfection. The PSA raised a concern about the increasing number of cases in different offices compared to first and second wave. The PSA urged the employer to continue complying with safety regulations to avoid more infections.

Steering Committee meeting

Districts continue to hold meetings with PSA shop stewards. The employer reported that Vhembe has a new district manager who was attending the meeting for the first time. The PSA welcomed the new district manager. Members are reminded not to report for work if they have symptoms and to immediately report to the employer and report non-compliance to their shop steward.

Inadequate cleaners

The PSA raised a concern about adequacy of cleaners. The employer was requested to necessary arrangement to ensure continued provision of cleaning services as good hygiene practices are central to containment of COVID-19. The employer will respond in the next meeting.

Mobile truck operations

The PSA raised concerns about the neglect of mobile truck drivers as they are working alone and expected to comply with COVID-19 protocols, including screening and providing service to customers, which is impossible for one person. The employer responded that there must always be a minimum of two officials in mobile trucks to assist with the workload and district managers were directed to correct the situation. District managers were reminded to ensure daily disinfection of mobile trucks upon usage. Members are requested to report to the PSA if they work alone on (015) 295 0500 or Whatsapp 076 983 9852.

Vaccine of employees

The PSA raised a concern about the delay of employees' vaccination. The employer responded that the vaccination of employees will commence soon. Members should note that the vaccination process will start from 19 July 2021. The exact dates for Limpopo will soon be communicated.

Malamulele landline

The PSA was made aware about the landline problem at Malamulele in that the office had to be borrowed a phone whilst finalising the replacement process. The employer responded that it will soon finalise the replacement and that the cell phone of the office manager should in the meantime be utilised.

Staff in offices

The PSA raised a concern about the non-compliance with DPSA circulars regarding staff rotation. The employer responded that where offices are not complying and where practically possible, rotation should be implemented. The PSA requested the employer to update security officials when there are changes to regulations so that they assist with compliance and the employer to implement such.

GENERAL MANAGER