

FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
(DFFE)

11-05-2022

Feedback: Health and Safety Meeting – 10 May 2022

Facilities Cleaning and Hygiene Services

The employer reported that there are still challenges regarding the provision of cleaning and hygiene services in some facilities, however, the matter is receiving the necessary attention. The Cleaning protocol will be distributed before Thursday, 12 May 2022 to supervisors and facility managers to enable implementation. Workshop sessions will be arranged for employees.

OHS report and guidelines

A number of non-conformances with health and safety standards was reported, including: Failure to provide amenities such as soap, soap dispensers, thermometers, perspex screens, and paper towels; non-cleaning of offices and inadequate office spaces; no running water; inadequate sanitisers; poor pest-control management; failure to disinfect upon report of positive cases; as well as lack of COVID-19 signage, floor stickers, and posters. The matters are receiving attention and PSA shop stewards are urged to monitor compliances at their workplace and ensure compliance with the OHSA.

The employer also presented Chemical Safety and Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety Guidelines for inputs (*attached* for ease of reference). Members are encouraged to send their inputs on or before **18 May 2022** to Velucia.maluleke@psa.co.za.

The employer also reported that a circular will be issued today, inviting nomination for Occupational Health and Safety Statutory appointments with a closing date of 24 May 2022. Members are urged to participate in this process. The Directorate will also endeavour to establish regional committees for health and safety. Shop stewards are urged to play a meaningful role and ensure that the PSA is represented in all regional committees as the health and safety of members remain critical for the PSA.

EHW COVID-19 case reporting

The employer reported COVID-19 statistics as follows:

- Alert level 1 from 31/01/2022 – 04/04/2022: Ten confirmed cases and all recovered with eight contacts.
- Non-National State of Disaster Period – 05/04/22 to 09/05/2022: 14 confirmed cases, five active cases and nine recoveries, with 12 contacts.

Members are urged to continue observing safety measures as COVID-19 is still a reality. It was further reported that there is non-compliance with screening processes, however, the matter will be interrogated in the next meeting owing to absence some officials to address this. Vaccination is still encouraged by the employer to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19.

Return to work

The committee resolved that the status of 80% must be maintained and the recommendation will be submitted to the Steering Committee. The recommendation is based on the fact that the infections rate in the country is increasing and uncertainties regarding Regulations as the Department of Health's public participation is underway. It was reported that the majority of employees with cormobities are back at work but those with challenges are advised to engage the Wellness Section regarding advice on the application to continue working at home.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website (www.psa.co.za), send an email to ask@psa.co.za, or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER