Byggenæringens Landsforening

Memo

From: The Federation of Norwegian Construction Industries (BNL)
To: Industries in BNL
Date: 18/3/2020, version 3
Case: Recommendations regarding infection prevention and control - facilitation of continued operations

Below are BNL's instructions regarding the facilitation of continued operations at construction sites in accordance with the necessary rules for infection prevention and control. These instructions are subject to change depending on what is at all times required to limit the spread of the Coronavirus disease.

Cooperation regarding facilitation

At this time, infection prevention and control efforts must be implemented in line with all other critical safety and security work at construction sites. Cooperation between employee representatives and project management is currently essential for the facilitation of continued work and operations at construction sites. A Coronavirus representative should be named at each construction site, who is tasked with ensuring compliance with the rules from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health as well as internal rules.

Portable buildings as offices

Physical meetings:

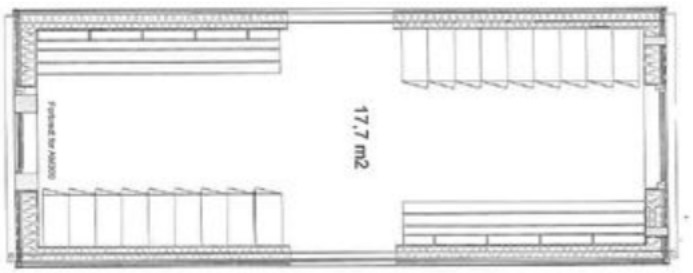
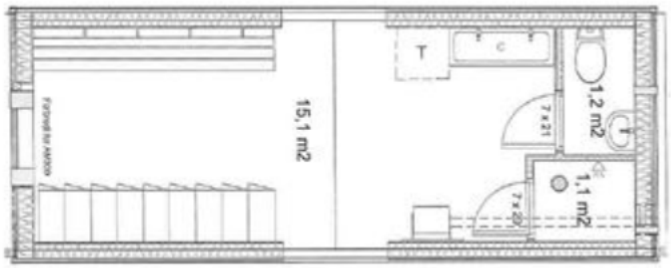
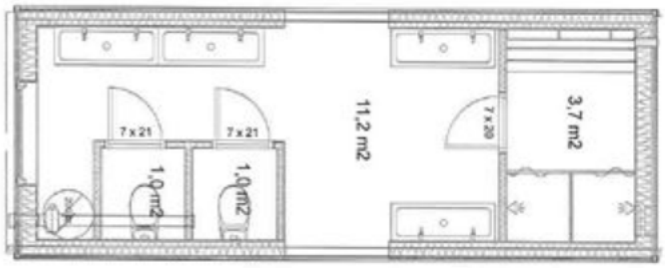
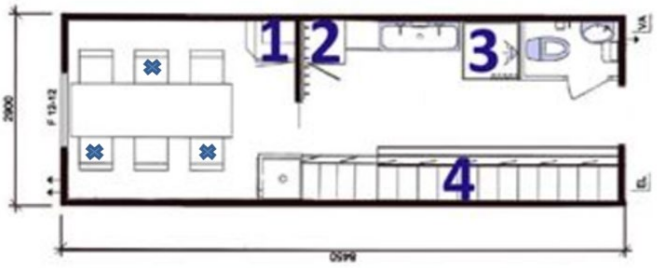
- Physical meetings shall be avoided with the use of teleconferencing or digital conferencing solutions.
- If digital meetings cannot be held, physical meetings may be held provided the number of participants does not exceed five individuals, and the recommended distance of two meters between participants can be maintained throughout the meeting.
- When holding physical meetings, one meeting participant shall be responsible for ensuring the maintenance of the two-meter distance between meeting participants.
- Consider whether meetings can be implemented by connecting meeting participants in smaller meeting groups who communicate digitally.

Office management:

- Personnel whose presence at the construction site is not required in order to perform their duties shall work via home office. Individuals who are on the construction site and whose presence is not required shall be expelled and this deviation shall be reported to the principal undertaking.
- Distribute office spaces in such a manner that 'close working environments' are avoided. Meeting rooms should also be utilised as offices and consider whether additional portable buildings should be obtained.

Portable buildings with changing and break rooms

- Limit the number of individuals who may use the changing room simultaneously. Disseminate these rules. Facilitate shifts in such a manner that personnel can take turns using the changing and break room in order to reduce close proximity to one another during changing and washing up.

	Changing room for up to 18 individuals: No more than maximum three individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.
	Changing room for up to nine individuals: No more than maximum two individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.
	Sanitary facilities: No more than maximum two individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.
	Combined break and sanitary facilities: No more than maximum three individuals may use such portable buildings simultaneously.

Instructions with examples of limitations on simultaneous use of changing rooms.

- Shared food/cafeteria arrangements shall be suspended, and personnel shall be advised to bring their own lunches. Shared beverages such as water, coffee and tea may remain available. Use disposable cups.

- Provide paper towel dispensers to ensure the availability of paper towels in order to avoid skin contact when using coffee pots/pitchers. Post notices regarding prevention of such skin contact.

- Cafeteria tables shall be washed using warm water and soap after lunch breaks are over. In case of alternating use of cafeteria tables, tables shall be washed in same manner between each sitting.

- Arrange furniture in such a manner that it is easy to comply with the requirement to maintain a two-meter distance between individuals.

- Shared refrigerator must be disinfected twice daily, or use thereof must be suspended.

- Establish rules regarding cleaning by way of handwashing/sanitising applicable to everyone entering or exiting.
  Ensure good hand hygiene by making available and restocking paper towels at all sinks.

- All work on the construction site shall be performed using gloves. Gloves shall be removed and 'parked' when personnel enter the portable building. Create solutions for 'parking of work gloves' in order to prevent them from coming into contact with one another.

- Portable buildings must be cleaned at least once daily using disinfectants.

- Enhance the cleaning of changing rooms by using disinfectants on potentially contaminated surfaces at least twice daily. This includes surfaces such as railings, door handles, switches, sinks, dispensers etc.

- Disseminate information about the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's instructions regarding infection prevention and control.

Portable buildings as living quarters

The following instructions are provided to reduce the risk of infection among residents living in close proximity to one another.

- Do not visit the lodgings of other residents.

- Perform handwashing each time you enter your own lodging.

- Distribute the use of lodgings in a manner that ensures the greatest possible distance between lodgings that are in use.

- Consider whether the workforce can be reduced with a commuter rota ensuring more vacant space in the living quarters.

- Arrange furniture in common areas so that the recommended two-meter distance is easy to maintain. Specify by way of notices the maximum capacity of common areas based on the recommended two-meter distance.

Quarantine:

If a resident is confirmed infected or has been in contact with infected persons, entailing that quarantine is needed, the person concerned must immediately return home to complete the quarantine period. The journey home must occur using a private vehicle or other transportation

without contact with others according to agreement with the employer. The journey must not be made using public transport.
Before travelling, the person concerned is encouraged to contact a physician (by phone or digitally) for an assessment of their situation and preparation of sick leave.

Portable buildings are not suitable for quarantine. However, if the quarantine must be carried out in the living quarters, parts of the portable building comprising the quarantine zone must be physically closed off and marked as quarantine zone. A supply service must be facilitated in a manner ensuring that there is no direct physical contact between the quarantined person and others.

Operation of construction site

- Prepare for alternative work in the operation if supplies fail or personnel are absent.
- Obtain an overview of the status of critical materials and services. Consider whether critical supplies can be expedited.
- Consider whether new risks are created that will require safety measures if parts of the construction site need to be closed.
- Conduct daily meetings in smaller groups.
- Consider and, if possible, implement zoning of the construction site, in such a manner that groups are to the greatest extent possible isolated from one another.
- Ensure that craftsmen, both own personnel and sub-contractors can work with the recommended two-meter distance and under no circumstances with a distance of less than one (1) meter.
- Avoid safety inspections in groups by dividing safety inspections on the construction site into zones. Have each participant inspect a zone.

Detailed information regarding the spread of infection

Recommended distance between persons is two-meter in order to prevent infection.
Distance between persons shall under no circumstance be less than one (1) meter.

See the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's website:

https://www.fhi.no/nettpub/coronavirus/fakta/fakta-om-koronavirus-coronavirus-2019-ncov/