



STACS of News

Apr 2020

VOLUME 16, Iss. 4

Guidance from HSE during COVID-19



Health and Safety
Executive

HSE eBulletin

Carrying out thorough examination and testing of lifting and pressure equipment during the coronavirus outbreak

Read below for more details, or [visit our website](#).

HSE recognises the potential challenges when carrying out legal requirements for thorough examination and testing (TE&T) of plant and equipment as a result of the additional precautions people need to take to help reduce risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) and has [produced guidance to help industry during this period](#).

- Inspection engineers are supporting GB industry to maintain operations and viability by prioritising critical industries and the protection of equipment aiding vulnerable persons.
- Operators of such equipment must still make all reasonable efforts to ensure that social distancing measures in the workplace aren't perceived to be a barrier to carrying out TE&T.
- Businesses and inspection bodies should cooperate to ensure access to plant and equipment for TE&T continues to schedule. This includes businesses arranging access for visiting inspectors to undertake thorough examinations at businesses that are currently closed (either by choice or due to COVID-19 related legislation).
- If the coronavirus outbreak means your businesses is unable to meet its obligations for TE&T, this guidance includes a risk-based process to determine whether there are steps you can take to safely continue to use equipment critical for essential work, or if you must decide to stop using the equipment.
- The law for Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) and Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (PSSR) remain in place and businesses must continue to make ensure that equipment is safe to use.

RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19

You must only make a report under RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013) when:

- an unintended incident at work has led to someone's possible or actual exposure to coronavirus. This must be reported as a dangerous occurrence.
- a worker has been diagnosed as having COVID 19 and there is reasonable evidence that it was caused by exposure at work. This must be reported as a case of disease.
- a worker dies as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus.

What to report (please read carefully)

Dangerous occurrences

Read about RIDDOR [regulation 7, Schedule 2 – Section 10 on legislation.gov.uk](#)

If something happens at work which results in (or could result in) the release or escape of coronavirus you must report this as a dangerous occurrence. **An example of a dangerous occurrence would be a lab worker accidentally smashing a glass vial containing coronavirus, leading to people being exposed.**

Cases of disease: exposure to a biological agent

Read about RIDDOR [regulation 9 \(b\) on legislation.gov.uk](#)

If there is reasonable evidence that someone diagnosed with COVID-19 was likely exposed **because of their work** you must report this as an exposure to a biological agent using the case of disease report. **An example of a work-related exposure to coronavirus would be a health care professional who is diagnosed with COVID-19 after treating patients with COVID-19.**

Work related fatalities

Read about RIDDOR [regulation 6 \(2\) on legislation.gov.uk](#)

If a worker dies as a result of exposure to coronavirus from their work and this is confirmed as the likely cause of death by a registered medical practitioner, then you must report this as a death due to exposure to a biological agent using the 'case of disease' report form. You must report workplace fatalities to HSE by the quickest practicable means without delay and send a report of that fatality within 10 days of the incident.

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