

FACT SHEET

MANAGING A COVID-SECURE SUPPLY CHAIN

By now, many businesses have managed to make their internal working practices COVID-secure. But, if you are dealing with outside contractors during the pandemic, new elements of risk need to be taken into account. Make sure you are fully aware of your responsibilities.

Review all risk assessments before starting any work and check you have fully assessed for COVID-19 transmission in addition to standard hazards. Ensure all working procedures allow for social distancing to be followed.

When working with contractors, who is responsible for dealing with the COVID-19 transmission risk?

This is broadly the same as pre-COVID. Clients are still responsible for safety at their premises, but contractors will need to keep the client's procedures in mind but also manage their own COVID duties.

Be aware: it's your responsibility as an employer to ensure that the contractor is **capable** of managing their own health and safety duties.

Before they visit your site, you must brief the contractor on all safety requirements and any other necessary guidance. Any workers they bring will have to undergo induction training to ensure everyone is fully aware of the risks.

While there is no strict cap on workers numbers, it should ideally be kept as low as possible on site — particularly with outside visitors entering the work environment. It may be necessary to review working patterns and working times to reduce overlap between different groups.

For the duration of the project, periodic observation of contractors should be undertaken to guarantee that all guidelines are consistently being followed.

When the project is complete, a thorough assessment and evaluation should be undertaken and any notable findings should be implemented for future projects.

The information in this Fact Sheet has been assembled and interpreted to give truck owners and users basic guidance on frequently asked questions. Further important information will be given in the quoted reference documents. Responsibility for meeting the safety obligations discussed rests with the employer, and the FLTA will not accept liability for any problem arising as a result of the content of this document. Technical Bulletins, containing more detailed information and updated as appropriate, are made available free to members of the FLTA SAFE USER GROUP.

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