

The Use of Face Coverings in Construction during Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Reference: <https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-Use-of-Face-Coverings-in-Construction-during-Coronavirus-1.pdf>

Published on 29th of September, 2020 (version 2)

The Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has published a statement on the use of face coverings on construction sites in response to coronavirus to help provide a consistent approach across the industry. It is based on Government guidance in England and other restrictions and advice may apply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

What is a face covering?

Face coverings are made from fabric or cloth and cover the mouth and nose to protect others, not the user, from infection. They are not PPE as they do not protect people from work-related hazards and are not made to a recognised standard.

Current Position

The use of face coverings in response to coronavirus is mandatory for members of the public in an increasing number of specified places, most of which meet all of the following criteria:

- ✓ enclosed public spaces
- ✓ where social distancing isn't always possible
- ✓ where people come into contact with others they do not normally meet.

However, The use of face coverings and/or PPE is not required in response to coronavirus whilst carrying out construction activities, and the Government guidance on Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19) – Construction and other outdoor work states that: *Workplaces should not encourage the precautionary use of extra PPE to protect against COVID-19 outside clinical settings or when responding to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.*

CLC Position

Where workers on site are not required to wear Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and their workplace (which may include welfare and changing facilities, site offices or site meeting rooms) meets all of the criteria below, their employer should make face coverings available and they should be worn in:

- ✓ an enclosed space
- ✓ where social distancing isn't always possible
- ✓ where they come into contact with others they do not normally meet.

In line with Government guidance on premises providing hospitality, face coverings **must** be worn in canteens except when seated at a table to eat or drink.

Please note that, Site Operating Procedures should be implemented and maintained throughout on construction sites, and workers should maintain a distance of two metres, or one metre with risk mitigation where two metres is not viable, until further advice issued by CLC.

Reference: <http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-5.pdf>

Published on: 4th of July, 2020 (version 5)

OnSite Support's Position:

We fully support CLC's position on using face covering in construction sites. In addition, we encourage our customers to use appropriate RPE¹ to perform right tasks on sites. While face covering is important for social distancing, RPE should be worn when there is a risk of hazard, such as- silica, dust, etc. that may cause respiratory distress in the short, medium or long term.

We're here to support you to maintain best practices in your site and help to protect everyone from COVID-19. You're never alone. We are all together in this journey.

Please check our social distancing face coverings and snood in our website-

<https://www.onsite-support.co.uk/product/onsite-premium-washable-reusable-mask-pk-20-2>

<https://www.onsite-support.co.uk/product/onsite-premium-washable-snood>

<https://www.onsite-support.co.uk/product/premium-washable-reusable-mask-pk-25>

To find RPE, please visit our website

<https://www.onsite-support.co.uk/product/coshield-ffp3-moulded-valved-mask>

<https://www.onsite-support.co.uk/product/ffp3-valved-masks-box-50>

Thank you!

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Stay Safe, Stay Healthy!