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SOP V5 Guidance

On 1 July 2020, the Construction Leadership Council published Version 5 of its Site Operating Procedures on safe site working practices (replacing SOP V4, which has now been withdrawn).*

Developed to introduce consistent measures on construction sites of all types and sizes, the SOP guidelines are regularly reviewed to reflect the fast-moving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also ensuring that employers continue to remain compliant.

The new SOP V5 guidelines have been published in response to the new government guidelines following the ease of lockdown measures in England from Saturday 4 July. This includes the implementation of the 'one metre plus' social distancing guidelines, which require workers to stay two metres apart, or one metre with risk mitigation where two metres is not viable. Changes to SOP V5 guidance include:

- ▶ **Updates to the 'When to Travel to Work' section** – the reasons as to why employees cannot travel to work have expanded to include if they experience the loss or change in normal sense of taste and smell, if they have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace, if they receive a negative Coronavirus test result or, if they have received a positive test result, their period of self-isolation is complete

- ▶ **Alteration to the peak times to avoid public transport** – it is now recommended that workers avoid public transport during the times of 05.45 to 08.15 and 16.00-17.30
- ▶ **Entry systems are to be cleaned regularly rather than between each use**
- ▶ **Drivers will now have access to welfare facilities**
- ▶ **Canteens that have been closed or offered a restricted service** may now reopen following newly published government guidance on [Keeping Workers and Customers Safe During COVID-19 in Restaurants](#).

Offering tailored advice, risk and site assessments, audits, policy checks and remote training, all of which are available within our new '[Business Ready](#)' programme, SOCOTEC's Health & Safety Consultancy can equip your organisation with the confidence and peace of mind to safely resume operations during these challenging times.

Please also note that SOCOTEC staff carrying out on-site services continue to adhere to the latest government guidelines at all times.

Please note that the SOP V5 guidance and new social distancing guidelines apply in England only. Other restrictions and advice may apply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

HOW CAN SOCOTEC HELP?

[Click here](#) for further information on how SOCOTEC's Health and Safety Consultancy can support you during COVID-19, or [get in touch](#).