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Legislation Update: RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19

During these tough times, SOCOTEC's Health & Safety Consultancy team are here to provide support on Government safety legislation such as RIDDOR reporting.

In light of the on-going Coronavirus pandemic, the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has released new guidance regarding RIDDOR reporting of COVID-19. A summary of the guidance is detailed below:

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

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 someone dies as a result of a work-related exposure to coronavirus 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.