

# Covid-19 Site Shutdown



## Loss Prevention Standard

# Temporary Shutdown and Mothballing of Construction Sites



### Introduction

This Loss Prevention Standard contains recommendations for temporary or extended shutdowns or mothballing of construction projects.

This should be considered a dynamic procedure and should therefore be reviewed and updated regularly, to reflect conditions and changes.

Specific consideration should also be made for reduced staffing levels and lone working to ensure that there is appropriate supervision oversight of site activities, including health and safety, quality assurance, environmental management and permit to work systems.

### Notification to Your Insurer

Please review the Cessation of Works wording in your policy documentation. If work on site is to be stopped for an extended period beyond the period specified (3 months in Contract Works Policy) in your policy, you must notify your Broker / Aviva as loss or damage occurring beyond the specified period is excluded unless agreed by Aviva in writing.

### Project Risk Assessment

Before commencing extended closure, shutdown or mothballing of a construction project, a Project Risk Assessment must be carried out for each particular site, to determine what additional measures are required to safely secure the project and its contents, with specific reference to the following:

- The current stage of the project
- Environmental and weather conditions (during the shutdown period)
- Structural issues
- Site safety and security, including a schedule of regular inspections
- Housekeeping – removal of waste and combustible materials from site
- Emergency Response Plan (including emergency contacts)
- Project Recommencement Plan – to include procedures, inspections and checks before site operations are recommenced
- Monthly reviews/updates of the Project Risk Register (or more frequently, as required)

### Site Security

- Ensure that the site perimeter is secure, with robust fencing able to withstand anticipated weather conditions during the shutdown period
- Provide 24 hour manned security presence on site, alternatively provide CCTV monitoring of the site perimeter (and inside the site), preferably with PIR sensors and loudspeakers to warn trespassers. CCTV must be linked to a 24-hour manned Alarm Receiving Centre.
- Revise the emergency contact numbers for the site, ensuring that these are up to date and communicated to the security company and local Garda station and neighbours where appropriate.

### General Housekeeping and Storage

- Storage areas for materials and equipment must not be located in flood risk zones
- Materials and equipment must be elevated off the ground
- Ensure that all waste has been removed prior to shutdown
- Minimise storage within all buildings wherever possible, especially combustible materials
- Fuel oils and gas cylinders should be removed from site, otherwise they must be stored in an appropriate secure and external area
- Isolate all non-essential utilities and services
- Drain down water systems
- Ensure temporary fire detection and alarm systems remain operational and linked to a 24-hour manned Alarm Receiving Centre

## Construction Plant and Machinery

- Construction plant and equipment should be taken off-hire and removed from site. Where this is not possible, all construction plant and equipment should be parked or stored in a secure compound outside of a flood risk zone
- Remove batteries from large items of plant to prevent them from being stolen. Removing or isolating batteries also helps to maintain charge during long periods of inactivity
- Jibs on mobile cranes must be lowered. Tower cranes must be left in 'free slew'
- Ensure continued compliance with statutory inspection and maintenance requirements for critical plant and equipment
- Refer to Site Security guidance above for further advice

## Electro-Mechanical Equipment and Installations

Special consideration must be given to electro-mechanical equipment during prolonged shutdowns of construction sites, such as:

- Any electro-mechanical equipment planned to be shut down should be preserved following manufacturer's recommendations
- Any electro-mechanical equipment on site but not installed/commissioned should be preserved following manufacturer's recommendations
- Fire protection for any operational electro-mechanical equipment should be activated
- Maintenance should be provided to any operational electro-mechanical equipment as per manufacturer's recommendations
- It is expected that an engineering analysis is carried out if maintenance is deferred on operational electro-mechanical equipment. The engineering analysis should be supported by the equipment manufacturer or by a third party specialist.

## Prevention of Water Damage

- Ensure that incoming temporary and permanent water supplies are turned off, wherever possible. Locations of shut-off valves should be detailed on site plans
- If the building envelope cannot be made fully watertight, provide or install appropriate temporary protective measures to prevent water ingress
- Ensure compliance with the Construction Insurance Risk Engineers Group (CIREG) Best Practice Guidance: ['Managing Escape of Water Risk on Construction Sites'](#) - 5th Edition, November 2019.

## Earthworks, Excavations and Drainage

- All excavations must be battered back to a safe angle or supported with appropriate excavation support
- Large sections of exposed earthworks must be adequately covered or protected from the elements wherever possible
- Ensure that appropriate temporary drainage is in place. All temporary and permanent drainage runs must be clear, including discharge points, oil, silt and settlement traps, etc
- Complete regular inspection and maintenance of pumps and dewatering systems. Remote alarms must be installed where continued operation of pumping systems is critical

## Temporary Works

- Carry out structural reviews and risk assessments for all temporary works
- Carry out regular inspections and maintenance of temporary works during extended shutdown periods

## Structural Design Issues

Specific consideration should be given to the following:

- Assess the effect of wind loading on partially completed building facades
- Assess the structural stability of partially completed structures or installations

## Sources and Useful Links

[Code of Practice for the Protection of Empty Buildings -Fire safety & Security](#)

[Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire of Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation](#)

[An Garda Síochána Crime Prevention Information Sheet Building site Security.](#)

### Please Note

This document contains general information and guidance and is not and should not be relied on as specific advice. The document may not cover every risk, exposure or hazard that may arise and Aviva recommend that you obtain specific advice relevant to the circumstances. Aviva accepts no responsibility or liability towards any person who may rely upon this document.



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