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Sub:- Factories & Boilers Department - “COVID-19 : Return to work and Preventive measures in context to the State of Kerala” - Suggestions issued by ILO - reg

Department of Factories & Boilers, Government of Kerala jointly organized a WEBINAR with International Labour Organisation (ILO) on 06.08.2020 on the above subject. In this WEBINAR certain suggestions were issued by ILO to prevent the pandemic COVID-19 in the work place of Kerala. So it is directed to all Factory Management to strictly follow the following suggestions issued by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) :

Step 1 - Practice Physical distancing :-

- a) In a factory keep a physical distance of 2m between workers. Avoid face to face discussion as much as possible. Persons should enter one by one in a factory, supermarkets, shopping malls etc
- b) Construction site inspection using a mobile camera can avoid over crowding
- c) Physical distancing should be maintained while travelling in a company vehicle. Only one worker is allowed to sit in a seat of two persons.
- d) Practical physical distancing in a canteen and divide the workers for eating in different times.
- e) If two stairs were available, mark one for going up and other for going down
- f) Keep a distance of 2 meters in passages between workers

- g) Use transparent shields to avoid direct human to human contact and to reduce infection chance. It can be applied in reception and marketing companies. Similarly cardboard box separation may be used in workplaces to avoid face to face contact.
- h) Avoid face to face meeting in workplaces and offices. Promote teleworking and organize internet meeting
- i) If a truck driver or worker in close contact with a infected person, there is more chance to get infected. So he has to be isolated before entering in to the factory

Step II - Equip workers to maintain hygiene :-

- a) In a factory every one wash their hands carefully using soap. Proper hand washing is very important. 7 step technique is to be applied for effective hand washing
- b) Provide hand sanitizers in workplaces
- c) If no disposable handkerchiefs are available, sneeze or cough in to elbow instead of your hands to prevent infection. Everybody should practice this.
- d) Use a face mask in workplace. Different types of masks are available. As much as possible the mask should cover your nose and mouth and the space between the mask and your face should be minimum as possible to avoid infection chances. The cloth masks should be washed and dried every day. If it is not possible to wear the mask continuously, if there is nobody is in surrounding you can take out your mask temporarily
- e) Open window regularly to increase ventilation
- f) While cleaning in a work space or office space give attention to high touch areas such as water taps, door knobs and control panel switches.
- g) Alcoholic solutions (70%) and sodium hypochloride solutions (0.05%) may be used for disinfection. Spraying or fumigating these infectants is not recommended because it is very dangerous to people and not very effective. Instead, wipe highly touched areas using a disinfectant.

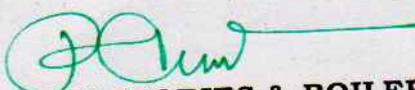
Step III - Promote self-health check of workers :-

It is also a very important area. In every work space do body temp checkup of worker. If symptoms of the disease appear to any worker they should not come to work and isolated at home and should be tested for disease. If he found +ve, provide company support and necessary materials to them. Identify his closely contacted persons, apply testing and if they are +ve, isolate for home quarantine to stop the spread and consult a physician or a local health office for institutional quarantine.

Step IV - Joint Risk assessment by employees and workers together :-

Employers and workers should conduct joint risk assessment for identifying crowded work areas and perform physical distancing between workers and avoid face to face contacts.

All officers are directed to communicate the same to the Management of Factories for strict compliance and report in this regard to be submitted at the earliest.


DIRECTOR OF FACTORIES & BOILERS

- Copy to :
1. All Joint Director of Factories & Boilers
 2. All Inspectors of Factories & Boilers & Additional Inspector of Factories
 3. All factory Management
 4. Computer Section

