

GUIDANCE FOR READY MIXED CONCRETE COMPANIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



As you know, the coronavirus (COVID-19) is a recently appeared virus with possible serious health complications, possibly fatal, especially in older people. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it can be contagious for up to 14 days, even if the infected person has no symptoms. The virus is transmitted either through close personal contact with an infected person - by drops of their saliva when talking closely, sneezing or coughing; or by touching contaminated objects or surfaces and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. However, adherence with some basic rules can help prevent its spread. NRMCA has compiled some of the recommendations that health and safety organizations and concrete companies are implementing where the construction sector continues to operate, with the objective of mitigating or minimizing the risk of transmission of the virus to industry personnel.



CONCRETE MIXER TRUCK DRIVERS



1. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If you do not have access to it, use hand sanitizer temporarily until you can wash properly.



2. Greet by avoiding physical contact (no handshakes, hugs or kisses) and keep a prudent distance from anyone you interact with. The authorities recommend a minimum distance of six feet.



3. If you cough or sneeze, you should do so by covering your mouth with your folded elbow or with disposable tissues, even if you are alone, as you can contaminate items or equipment that other people use.



4. If you have flu-like symptoms, tell your boss before you go to work to get instructions. If any of the symptoms related to COVID-19 (high fever, dry cough or breathing difficulty) appear during your working day, report immediately to your superior and alert health agencies where you live for instructions.



5. Drink water frequently and be careful to use your own containers and utensils to eat (cups, dishes and cutlery).



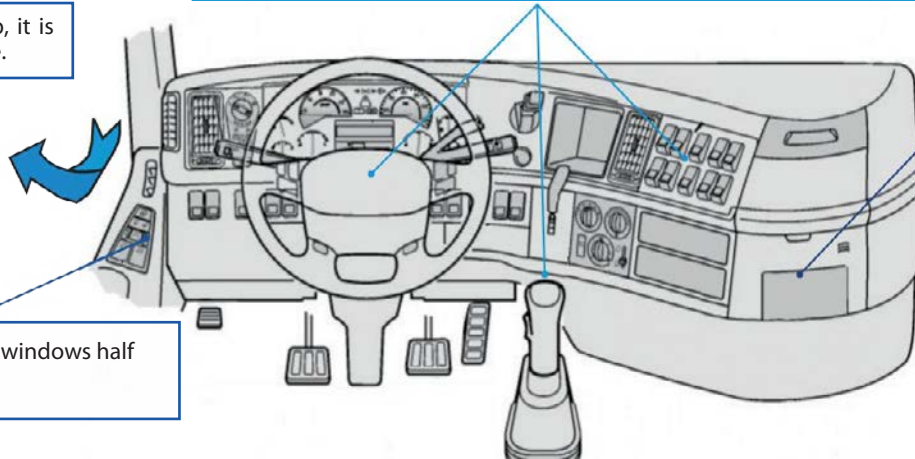
6. Upon receipt and before handing over for the next shift, disinfect keys, phones, and other items that have been assigned for your work.



IN THE CONCRETE MIXER TRUCK:

1. Maintain cleanliness and hygiene inside the truck cab. Clean and disinfect the steering wheel, frequently used levers and buttons, seats and in general anything you usually touch with your hands. This recommendation is mainly relevant when there are shift changes.

2. When cleaning the cab, it is advisable to let it ventilate.



4. Try to have hand sanitizer available.

3. When driving, keep windows half open for ventilation.

5. Do not operate or board equipment that has not been specifically assigned to you.

DURING THE LOADING/UNLOADING OF CONCRETE AT THE PLANT AND ON SITE:



1. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) responsibly, including face masks, safety glasses, etc. Remember that this is an emergency and PPE is becoming scarce.

2. Use gloves to protect hands and handle invoices or documentation with customers. As well as with levers, chutes or any tool that someone else may have touched. Remember not to touch your face while using any of these, and to wash your hands once finished.



3. Avoid crowds in general and respect the minimum distance in waiting rooms, driver rooms and work sites. Use non-adjacent seats if necessary.

4. Stay in your truck as long as possible. If waiting time is prolonged, it is better that you stay isolated inside the vehicle and continue with the necessary hygiene precautions. Before eating anything, wash your hands with soap.



5. Do not share PPE, pens or other writing instruments.

6. Customers should not touch truck components, including hoses and chutes.





GUIDANCE FOR CONCRETE PRODUCERS



1. Follow the recommendations of the CDC and keep your staff informed.



2. Identify the most vulnerable workers (over 60 years of age, or with respiratory conditions) and take action to minimize or eliminate their exposure. Set up disinfection crews for vehicles and work tools, especially on shift changes.



3. Implement policies for the delivery of tickets to minimize driver-client interaction. Some companies have temporarily suspended the signing of delivery tickets by customers and have used unilateral receipt documents which include customers' details. Give a hygiene kit to each worker.



4. Implement policies that minimize the contact of staff on the plant with doorknobs or handles, which may have germs, etc. Set up systems (e.g. by sounding an alarm every 2 or 3 hours) to remind staff from time to time to wash hands.



5. Organize sites to allow for greater air circulation where people gather, allowing the minimum distance between them. (e.g. open-air areas for ticket delivery and registration).

6. Reduce the access of people to places not strictly required in their work and, where possible, separate the jobs.



7. As far as possible, establish work shifts to minimize the concentration of staff, and ask people whose work permits them to work at home.



8. Wherever possible, develop illustrative advice leaflets, and start COVID-19 training to provide correct information.



9. Have non-contact thermometers at the entrance and exit of plants for taking the temperature of workers.



10. Establish isolation protocols in the plant and procedures for transfer to homes or hospitals, of people with signs of COVID-19.



11. Limit the entry of people to plants and work sites, unless absolutely necessary.



12. For more information, view trustworthy sources, including the CDC at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html, or www.coronavirus.gov.



It is important for companies to adapt this guidance to their own requirements, and to make customers aware of the situation, both for their own protection and for that of your own personnel.

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The Ibero-American FIHP and European ERMCO Federations of ready mixed concrete associations prepared this document to contribute to the protection of workers in the concrete industry in those countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the information that the different health authorities have reported on the virus and with the advice of different experts from the concrete industry. However, neither NRMCA, FIHP nor ERMCO nor the experts who have contributed to this document assume any responsibility for it and its effects; it is issued solely as guidance. The application of sanitary measures that each company imposes must always comply with local regulations and the instructions of the authorities. FIHP and ERMCO appreciate the voluntary cooperation in the compilation of these practices and appreciates the feedback for their ongoing updating during the emergency.