

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

21 April 2021

### **INDUSTRY TO STRICTLY COMPLY WITH THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO STEM THE INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES**

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) recently called for a meeting with several companies and Trade Associations to highlight the spike in Covid-19 cases, and the urgency to address the high number of Covid-19 cases in the manufacturing sector.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) had informed MITI that about 83% of the reported Covid-19 cases were from the manufacturing sector. The factors contributing to the widespread Covid-19 cases in the manufacturing sector are inadequate hostel facilities and failing to comply with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set by the authorities. The industries identified with the high number of Covid-19 cases are from the electrical & electronics, rubber gloves, furniture and plastics industries.

**It is critical to note that the plastics industry was amongst the other industries identified as having high number of Covid-19 case.**

MOH had requested that MITI engage with these industries to highlight this matter and seek cooperation from the respective industry to curb the spread of the virus. MITI warned that if the Covid-19 cases continue to increase, MOH will impose an **Emergency Movement Control Order (EMCO)** on the respective factories concerned. This move will force the factories to close for between two to four weeks.

MITI had sternly informed that many manufacturing sectors have slacked in terms of SOP compliance - especially in social distancing and wearing of masks. In this regard, I strongly urge members to strictly follow the SOPs to prevent further spread of the Covid-19 cases. Please adopt proactive and preventive measures to tighten the existing SOPs at your workplace and the living quarters of your employees, including:

- 1. Companies need to form a COVID-19 Monitoring Team (ERT) and provide workplace protocols that covers screening of disease symptoms and prevention of infection transmission with reference to the guidelines of [Annex 25: COVID-19: MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR WORKPLACES](#), Ministry of Health Malaysia.**
- 2. Comply with the Government's directive for all foreign workers to be Covid-19 screened.**
- 3. Employers to provide greater attention to the living conditions for all workers who are provided with housing.** This would also include imposing the exact requirements on the living conditions of sub-contract workers.
- 4. Employers to ensure the wearing of face mask by each employee and ensure social distancing at the workplace, factory, etc.**

5. **Ensure physical distancing and wearing of masks in vehicles or busses that ferry workers. Vehicles and busses need to undergo disinfection process each time after use.**
6. **Register for Safe@Work programme with MITI for employees, where possible.**
7. **Register employees under the vaccination program via the relevant chambers and association.**

[https://mpma.org.my/v4/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Cir\\_COVID-Immunasion-Programme\\_Reminder\\_14Apr2021.pdf](https://mpma.org.my/v4/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Cir_COVID-Immunasion-Programme_Reminder_14Apr2021.pdf)

MPMA **strongly urge** members to strictly comply with the SOPs set up by the authorities as it will both protect your workers, as well as allow your operations to continue safely.

Thank you.

**DATUK LIM KOK BOON**  
President