

Use of Face Coverings

Information from Build UK Contractor Members

Introduction

Build UK carried out a snapshot survey of its Contractor members in June 2020 to understand their current policies on the provision of face coverings to workers in response to coronavirus.

The survey questions were based on the assumption that members:

- had undertaken a risk assessment, implemented the hierarchy of control measures within the Site Operating Procedures, and still had specific tasks that required individuals to work within two metres of each other
- provide suitable PPE, including face masks or RPE, where identified for particular tasks.

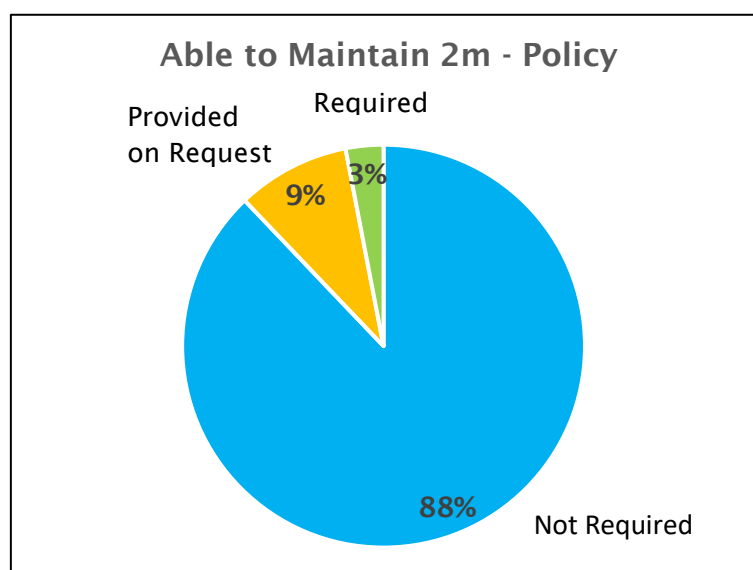
We received responses from 94% of members and this report summarises the approaches being taken.

The latest Government guidance on [Working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Construction and other outdoor work](#) includes a section on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and face coverings which states:

- *When managing the risks of COVID-19, additional PPE beyond what you usually wear will not be beneficial in the majority of workplaces.*
- *Workplaces should not encourage the precautionary use of extra PPE to protect against COVID-19 outside clinical settings or when responding to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. Unless you are in a situation where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is very high, your risk assessment should reflect the fact that the role of PPE in providing additional protection is extremely limited.*
- *The evidence suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you, but it may protect others if you are infected but have not developed symptoms. However workers and visitors who want to wear a face covering should be allowed to do so.*

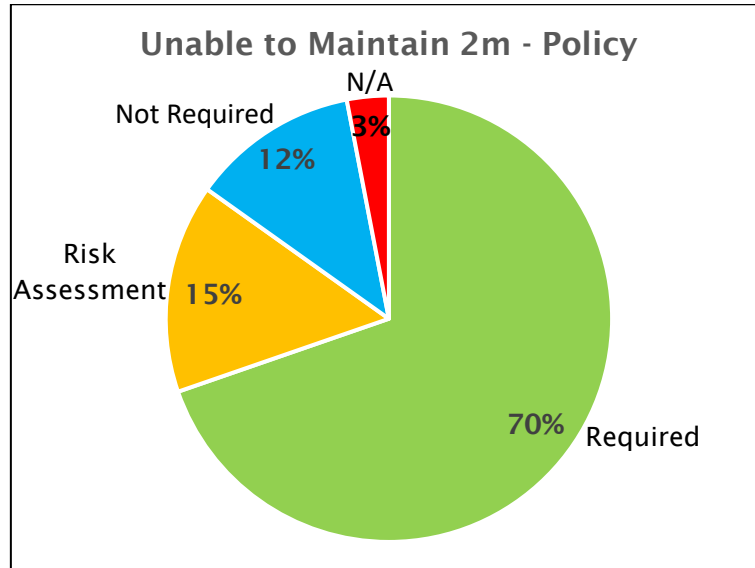
Where workers are able to maintain social distancing of two metres, what is your policy regarding the provision of face coverings?

- 29 companies do not provide, or require, a face covering
- 3 companies provide either face masks or visors on request
- 1 company requires face masks (Type II R) to be worn for all tasks



Where workers are not able to maintain social distancing of two metres, what is your policy regarding the provision of face coverings?

- 23 companies require face coverings to be worn for all tasks undertaken within two metres
- 5 companies undertake a task-specific risk assessment to determine if face coverings are worn
- 4 companies do not require face coverings to be worn
- 1 company does not undertake any activity within 2 metres



If you require face coverings within two metres, what type is provided?

Of the 23 companies that require face coverings for all tasks undertaken within two metres:

- 11 provide an FFP2 face mask
- 4 provide a cotton face mask
- 3 provide a Type II R face mask
- 2 provide an FFP3 face mask
- 2 provide a visor
- 1 provides a Type I face mask

