

We are here to help you.

Temporary Closure: Refurbishment at Existing Buildings



The spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) is unprecedented and we understand this is an incredibly difficult time for families and businesses. We are here to help customers and businesses who are affected by the impact of Covid-19 in these challenging times and have created guidance on how to deal with refurbishment at existing buildings.

Important Note

Please ensure that you comply with ongoing Government guidance regarding vulnerable individuals, individuals that need to self-isolate, the need to limit non-essential travel and lone work risk assessments. Please consider the need for alternative skilled personnel.

It is understood that customers will complete their own risk assessments. We understand and support our customer's responsibility to safeguard staff, persons they owe a duty of care towards and follow Government guidance and laws.

Refurbishment & Construction Work

Our customers are facing enormous challenges as buildings are forced to close or operate on a limited basis as workplaces shift to homeworking.

We've put together a checklist of risk control measures to consider in order to help secure buildings undergoing a full or partial refurbishment, extension or undergoing major maintenance work and to use as a reference point for regular checks during temporary closedown periods.

Risk Control Measures

- **Sprinkler Impairment:** If your building has a sprinkler system, contractors may have isolated part of the system. Any sprinkler system needs to be reinstated prior to the site being vacated. A robust check needs to be made sure that all parts of the sprinkler system, including all isolated valves, have been left open.
- **Sprinkler Notification:** Please note that Zurich need to be notified of any sprinkler impairment through our [Impairment Reporting System](#) which also contains detailed risk management guidance on the topic.
- **Automatic fire detection:** Ensure that fire detection systems have been reinstated. Work with the contractor to ensure that dustcaps to smoke/heat detectors have been removed.
- **Hot Work:** The emergency services may be strained at this time. Therefore, high risk activities such as hot work should be avoided or changed to lower risk alternatives. Please note, hot work must not be undertaken if you have isolated the sprinkler system.
- **Hot Work Permit:** If hot work needs to continue, please ensure a task area risk assessment is completed, a Hot Work Permit is issued and named fire watchers are provided. More information can be found in our article [here](#).
- **Site security:** Work with your contractor to ensure that the site has been left in a safe manner e.g. your building security has not been compromised e.g. no unsecured access into the building via scaffolding
- **Combustible materials and waste:** If you have experienced recent thefts, malicious damage or squatting issues please contact Zurich for guidance.
- **Combustible materials and waste:** Make sure combustible materials and waste have been removed from site. Ensure that skips are emptied and stored 10 metres from the building. If this cannot be achieved, please provide locked metal containers and locked skips.

Other Considerations:

- We have produced separate guides for temporarily closed buildings, schools, and construction sites.
- Please ensure that you comply with existing government guidance regarding vulnerable people and lone worker risk assessments. Consider the provisioning for alternative skilled personnel.
- Ensure that remaining site staff include trained fire wardens, and knowledge of the action to take in the event of an emergency.
- If you have experienced any recent thefts, malicious damage or other incidents please contact Zurich for guidance.

Temporary Construction Site Closure Checklist

Here is a short checklist that we have developed to help manage your contractor and building lockdown.

Site checks

Ensure the sprinkler system, and any locally isolated valves, is fully reinstated.	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Notify Zurich of any sprinkler impairment through our Impairment Reporting System	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Ensure fire detection systems are reinstated and any dust caps in contractor-controlled areas are removed.	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Any flammables and pressurized gas cylinders are removed from site	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Any planned hot work activities be delayed or switched to lower risk alternatives	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Hot work permit procedures strictly are adhered to	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Confirm with your contractor any required safety inspections e.g. scaffold inspection, post-adverse weather site inspection	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
If the site is provided with existing manned guarding e.g. overnight, weekend or security patrols, there is an expectation that this continues	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Non-essential building utilities, temporary or permanent, and equipment in the site area have been safety isolated. No charging left on.	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Valuable contents, hired-in plant or machinery has been removed from site or securely stored	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Site hoarding is complete and in good condition	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Access from the site area into the building is secure	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Security intruder alarm and/or scaffold alarm is working correctly and activated whenever the building is secured including any remote signalling	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
Security keyholder response is update and adequately resourced	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
External lighting is operational	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:
CCTV is operational with adequate lighting	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input type="radio"/>	Date:

This guidance may change as the current situation changes, [please refer back here](#) for our position on policy cover.



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