



The Crane Industry Council of Australia

Media Release

RELEASE TARGET – WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2020

CLEAR CRANE COMMUNICATION CRITICAL DURING COVID

Mandatory face coverings in Melbourne are still required on construction sites so a clear understanding of when to use them is crucial.

The Crane Industry Council of Australia's CEO Brandon Hitch said, "everyone on site needs to know the site rules for wearing face coverings because impeded communication can have devastating consequences."

"CICA recognises the importance of the Victorian Government's initiative to reduce the spread of coronavirus," Brandon Hitch said, "but clear communication is absolutely critical for safe crane operations."

Since the start of the COVID-19 restrictions, construction has been considered an essential service and provided work for thousands of employees in Melbourne. Construction works have remained operational because construction workers have observed necessary precautions.

This new rule will be enforced after 11.59pm on Wednesday 22 July 2020. The fine for not wearing a face mask will be \$200 and an inspection and enforcement blitz will be carried out in workplaces across Melbourne by Victoria Police and WorkSafe inspectors. If an employer is found to be discouraging face coverings, they face a \$9913 fine.

"This could potentially place our members in a very tenuous position, so CICA have called on WorkSafe to give construction sites a clear understanding of how to operate moving forward, with face coverings", said Brandon Hitch

WorkSafe have stated that:

- A mask would need to be removed to blow a whistle
- A crane operator does not require a mask if he/she is in crane by themselves
- A crane operator will require a mask if a fitter is in cabin
- A crane operator will require a mask if multiple persons operate the crane if no cleaning is being conducted in between operator changes

We will be communicating this to members by way of a safety bulletin and a member bulletin and this information will also be available on the CICA website.

"CICA cares deeply about the safety and well-being of our community, construction and crane crews, and the crane industry." **ENDS**