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Legal Services Newsletter | Regsdienste Nuusbrief

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COVID-19 COMPLIANCE OFFICERS IN THE WORKPLACE

With the latest round of regulation lowering the lockdown level to 4, we see that some businesses and entities are allowed to start operating again. This to an extent will include schools (especially private schools) in accordance with the proclamation by the Department of Education.

But before any entity can restart operations, certain conditions have been put in place. Two of these include the appointment or designation of a Covid-19 compliance officer and the development of a plan for the phased in return of their employees to the workplace, prior to reopening the workplace. (Item 16(6) of the regulations.)

How the Department of Basic Education will implement this in public schools will only become apparent once there is more certainty regarding specifics of the reopening of schools.

COVID-19 VOLDOENINGSBEAMPTES IN DIE WERKPLEK

Met die nuutste rondte van regulasies wat die grendelstaat na vlak 4 verlaag het word sekere besighede en entiteite weer toegelaat om oop te maak. Hierdie is tot 'n mate ook van toepassing op skole (veral privaat skole) in ingevolge die verwagte proklamasie/direktiewe deur die Departement van Basiese Onderwys.

Maar daar is sekere vereistes wat in plek gestel is voordat 'n entiteit weer sy deure kan oop maak.

Twee van hierdie sluit in die aanwysing van 'n Covid-19 voldoenings beampte en die ontwikkeling van 'n plan om infasering van werknemers by die werkplek te bepaal. (Item 16(6) van die regulasie.)

Hoe die Departement van Basiese Onderwys hierdie in publieke skole gaan implementeer sal eers duidelik word wanneer ons meer konkrete bepalings het oor die heropening van skole. It may however be worthwhile to familiarize oneself with the particulars of the regulation in preparation.

Nie te min is dit dalk steeds 'n goeie idee om die spesifikasies van die regulasies ter voorbereiding onder oë te kry:

Below is the extract regarding compliance officers and phasing in plans:

Hier volg 'n uittreksel rakende voldoeningsbeamptes en infaseringsplanne:

- (6) All industries, businesses, entities, both private and in the public sector, which are permitted to operate during Alert Level 4, must-
 - (a) designate a COVID-19 compliance officer who will oversee the:
 - (i) implementation of the plan referred to in sub regulation (b); and
 - (ii) adherence to the standards of hygiene and health protocols relating to COVID-19 at the workplace;
 - (b) develop a plan for the phased in return of their employees to the workplace, prior to reopening the workplace for business, which plan must correspond with Annexure E and be retained for inspection and contain the following information:
 - (i) which employees are permitted to work;
 - (ii) what the plans for the phased-in return of their employees to the workplace are;
 - (iii) what health protocols are in place to protect employees from COVID-19; and
 - (iv) the details of the COVID-19 compliance officer;
 - (c) phase in the return of their employees to work to manage the return of employees from other provinces, metropolitan and district areas; and
 - (d) develop measures to ensure that the workplace meets the standards of health protocols, adequate space for employees and social distancing measures for the public and service providers, as required.

The above along with Annexure E that deals directly with the workplace plan can be viewed

<u>HERE</u>

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