

# **Guidelines for the Loaders During COVID19 Situation;**

## **Proposed as a part of COVID19 Containment Plan.**

### **1. Background**

Amid COVID19 outbreak in Phuntsholing at Mini Dry Port (MDP), the loaders handling consignments and their etiquettes has become crucial and matter of concern. Generally, in the international trading Point of Entries (PoEs), the loader engagement is higher and most frequent and witnessed as exposed and a source of transmission.

The loaders in fact can be classified as active front liners considering their probability of exposing to the risks, which is much higher than any of the passive front liners' category. There is no automated loading and unloading way out at present to completely avoid the exposure of loaders in the wholesale stockyards and industrial estates. The only solution is to seclude and dedicate the loaders with proper accommodation and logistics, care and incentives and recruitment procedures and stringent undertakings ascribed to them.

Without much ado, based on the context and practicality, it is the sheer onus on every task force and concerned authority to ensure dedicated setup for this group of active front liners to largely avoid intermingling beyond their cohort, even to the associated passive front liners with them.

### **2. Scope**

This SOP guide shall be applied particularly to the context of industrial estate and loading and unloading stockyard, where import and export of consignments are frequent and higher. The SOP guide aims to rule out any form of transmission of COVID-19 infection through import and export of consignments henceforth.

### **3. Recruitment**

To qualify as loaders, one must be physically fit, attained permissible age limit and fulfilled associated qualifying criteria.

An abstract criterion is recommended as follows, inter alia:

- i. Health certified fitness;
- ii. Age 18 and above;
- iii. No past track record of traveling to restricted places related to COVID19 cases;
- iv. Single or able to stay as team for a dedicated period of time; and
- v. Shall draw undertakings as per the prevailing enforcements.

#### 4. Benefits/ Incentives

The payment received based on the existing rates applied either at MDP is reasonable and it is applied as per the table 1 and 2 here. However, considering the current practice at Motanga Industrial Estate, the payment may be recommended as in table 3, provided the daily wage is mobilized amongst the retailers and wholesalers as:

- *Upon agreement amongst the retailers and wholesalers, the daily wage may be mobilized or deducted based on the quantity imported by respective retailers and wholesalers. Their daily wage of Nu. 500 shall be secured earnings and the loading and unloading charges of Nu. 20 per metric ton shall be added benefits.*

#### 5. Rates and charges

The usual charges applied at MDP is as per table 1, categorizing transshipment and loading/unloading charges corresponding to the type of vehicles and capacity in metric tons (MT).

**Table 1:** Loading/ unloading charges based on the vehicle types.

Sl	Type of Vehicles	Transshipment General Goods	Loading and unloading
1	Pick up Bolero (Single cabin full)	1200	2500
2	Pick up Bolero (Single cabin less than full)	1000	2000
2	Mini Truck	2300	6000
3	Jumbo Truck	3500	6000
3	DCM (full load capacity)	2400	5000
4	Normal Truck (6 wheeler)	3000	5000
5	Truck(10 wheeler)	6000	7500
6	Truck (12 wheeler)	7000	8000
7	Truck (14 wheeler)	8000	8500
8	Truck (16 Wheller)	9000	10000
13	20 FT Container	2750	5000
14	40 Ft container	5500	10000

In case if the charges may be required to apply in unit and by type of construction materials, the prices are listed in Table 2, as per the MDP prevailing rate.

**Table 2:** Unit charges based on the materials.

SI	Items	Unit	Proposed
1	Red Brick	per pcs	1.00
2	AAC Block (Small)	per pcs	3.00
3	AAC Block (Medium)	per pcs	0.00
3	AAC Block (Big)	per pcs	5.00
4	CGI sheet	per ton	500.00
5	Aluminium Window/Door frame	per ton	500.00
6	Bamboo	per pcs	12.00
7	Glass	per crate	1000.00
8	Marble slabs/granite (12 x 4 ft)	per ton	600.00
9	Tiles	per ton	500.00
10	Shuttering ply	per pcs	10.00
11	Ceiling Board and channel	per pcs	10.00
12	MS steel items	per ton	500.00
13	Plywood 4mm x 6mm	per pcs	8.00
14	Sintex (300ltr)	per pcs	5.00
15	Sintex (500ltr)	per pcs	10.00
16	Sintex (1000ltr)	per pcs	20.00
17	Sintex (2000ltr)	per pcs	40.00
18	Sintex (3000ltr)	per pcs	60.00
19	Sintex (5000ltr)	per pcs	100.00
20	HDPE pipe (20-90mm)	per bundle	150.00
21	HDPE pipe (110-200mm)	per pcs	150.00
22	HDPE pipe (225-250mm)	per pcs	150.00
23	MS pipe	per ton	500.00
24	Mixed hardware items	per bolero	1500.00

For the general essential items, loading and unloading charges shall be as per Table 2 based on the quantity of consignments carrying. However, unit charges for rice shall be applied as Nu.5 for 25kg bag and Nu. 10 for 50 kg bag respectively.

Considering the Motanga Industrial Estate, Samdrupjongkhar, the prevailing practice is as per table 3, where a loader is receiving an average amount of Nu. 24,600 per month. They receive Nu. 500 per day as daily wage as well as divided amount receive from the group.

To unload or load, Nu.20 per metric ton is received and, in an average, by a group of 15 loaders, about 200MT of loading/ unloading is done in a day as shown in table 3.

**Table 3:** Loading charges applied in Motanga Industrial Estate, Samdrupjongkhar

Block	Rate Per MT	Permissible Loading/ Unloading Quantity (MT)	Charges Receivable (Nu.)	Average Recommended Group Range (10-15)	Per head Charges Receivable (Nu.)	Approx. Payment (Nu.)	
						Per Day	Monthly
Morning	20	100	2000	12.5	160	(500+320)	(820*30)
Day	20	100	2000	12.5	160		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>24,600</b>

## 6. Accommodation

Designated accommodation, secluded from the crowded settlements shall be facilitated by the Task Force without costs or on cost sharing basis until the situation lasts.

The loaders must be self contented as a group. However, the essential supply shall be reached to their location by zone delivery team or personnel on duty, without exposing to each other. Their payment for the essentials shall be either through electronic mode or settle towards the end of the agreed interval.

For the health safety, the group shall be provided with LLIN (mosquito net), insecticide and repellents, depending upon the location of the accommodation.

## 7. Health protocols

Once the recruitment is shortlisted as per the recruited criteria, the loaders will be tested for COVID19.

Generally, these group will receive special care and will be subjected to RDT tests on a weekly basis. Upon the completion of their shifts or agreed term or resignation as a result of fatigue, their risks assessment shall be carried out, quarantined and tested as per health protocols.

However, during their tenure as loaders, they shall abide by the following health protocols and containment measures:

- i. Wash/sanitize their hands before entering into the stockyard.
- ii. Maintain physical distancing at all times particularly in stockyard.
- iii. Put on proper PPE (face mask, utility gloves and gumboots) and carry out the loading and unloading.
- iv. Practice hand hygiene frequently, especially before touching the mouth, nose or eyes; after using toilets; and after touching handrails or door knobs.
- v. After each loading/unloading task, remove their gloves and dispose to a designated garbage bin. If reusable, gloves shall be washed thoroughly with soap and water, and sun/air dried.
- vi. Proceed to their designated accommodation area in a designated vehicle and driver, escorted by the DeSuup on duty.
- vii. Upon reaching to their place, they shall remove their cloths and take proper shower. They shall abide by the dos and don'ts prescribed under this SOP.
- viii. They shall not be allowed to move freely beyond the designated area.
- ix. Not come in close contact with anyone present at the site.

- x. Not exchange money, documents, nor share or exchange any edibles like doma and tobacco items, not even to the passerby.
- xi. They are not allowed to interact with the relatives, neighbors and akins other than group members.
- xii. In case of any emergency they shall report to the security personnel on duty or call to the following numbers:
  - a. Medical services 1192
  - b. Essential supplies 1194
  - c. Electricity 1250
  - d. Telecommunication 1600/114
  - e. Water supply 17661316

## **8. Undertaking**

To deter any form of exposure of the active front liners to the community and to ensure self-restraint, an undertaking shall be drawn in line with this SOP.

In the event, if any individual loaders breach or contravene the protocols as set in, they shall be indicted under the section 411 and 449 of the Penal Code of Bhutan 2004, wherein grading of criminal nuisance and breach of public order and tranquility is applied.