



Integrated Quality Certification Private Limited

WASH – Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene scheme
(A scheme of Quality Council of India)

COVID 19 is a global pandemic and has affected communities across the globe with large scale impact on health resulting in fatalities, business, employment, normal day to day life of public, disruption of travel across globe and free movement within the communities worldwide.

The current and post Covid 19 pandemic situation requires all business landscape to have a commitment to protect the health, safety and hygiene conditions of employees, contractors, suppliers, customers and other stakeholders with enhanced safety and hygiene conditions including training.

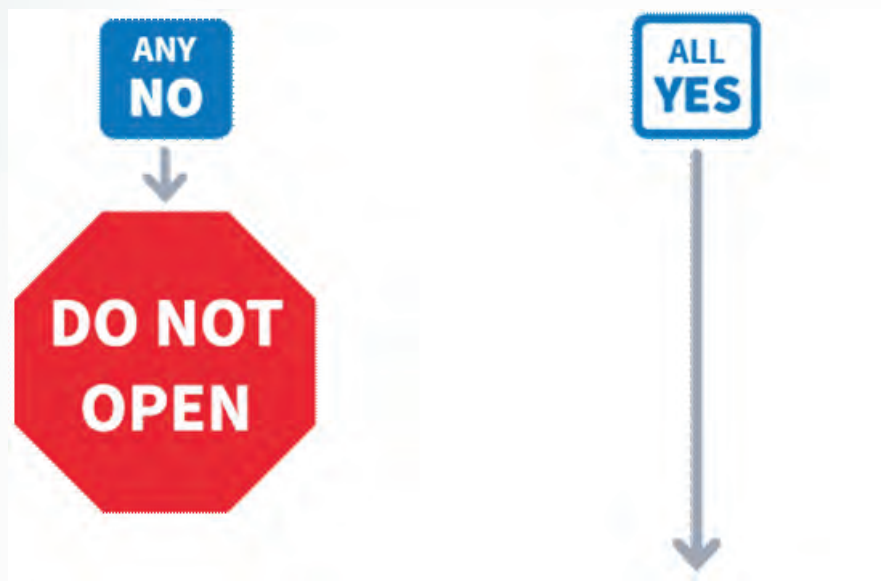
As we are emerging from the situation successfully with plans to revive the economy, it is expected that all sections of the country come together as a team to prevent further spread of the virus within the communities.

As the restrictions are being relaxed, all communities have to come together to fight on both the dimensions of health front and economic front to achieve success on reviving the lost ground because of the dangerous global COVID 19 Pandemic and training workforce on their responsibilities to prevent spread of the virus.

The purpose of this tool is to assist employers in making (re)opening decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially to protect vulnerable workers. It is important to check with state and local health officials and other partners to determine the most appropriate actions while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.

Should you consider opening?

- Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- Are you ready to protect employees at higher risk for severe illness?



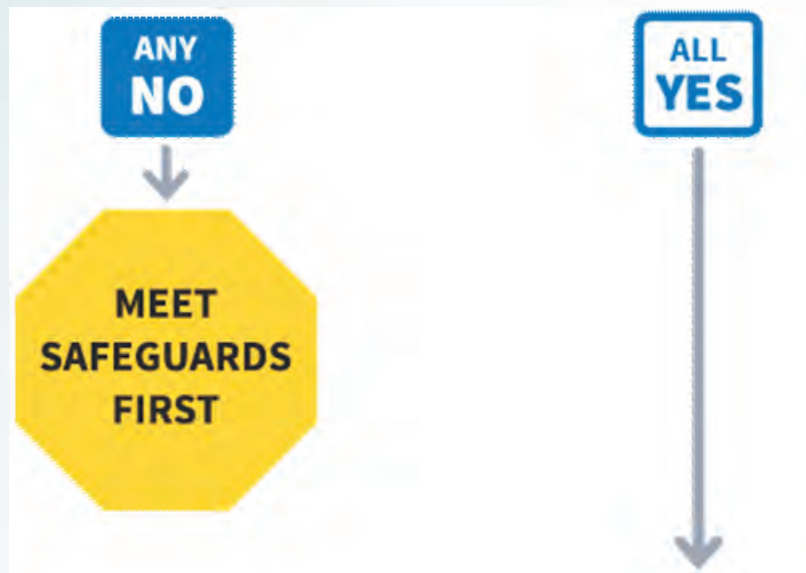
Are recommended health and safety actions in place?



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- Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing and employees wearing a cloth face covering, as feasible
- Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- Encourage social distancing and enhance spacing between employees, including through physical barriers, changing layout of workspaces, encouraging telework, closing or limiting access to communal spaces, staggering shifts and breaks, and limiting large events, when and where feasible
- Consider modifying travel and commuting practices. Promote telework for employees who do not live in the local area, if feasible
- Train all employees on health and safety protocols



Is ongoing monitoring in place?

In-line with GoI decision to start opening up the economy in a staggered manner, which is a laudable decision but also requires a plan to make sure that exceptions are minimised and recurrences of spread are strategically isolated. The positives of the lockdown cannot be afforded to be negated and therefore, there is a need to bring specific standards/protocols for the business organizations, institutions etc. to ensure that they are able to operate safely with little or no instances of recurrence.

GOI decision to open the economy requires a few imperative priorities for the Organizations / Institutions / Business Units as detailed below:

1. Ensuring safe operations and workplace for safeguarding health and safety of employees, customers and public
2. Complying with all new COVID-19 related requirements from health authorities, ministry of home affairs and/or other government bodies (local, state and national), or industry specific guidelines, if any



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3. Ensuring business continuity in operations to serve employees, contractors, suppliers, customers and other stakeholders.

Considering the required benefit required for organizations / institutions in the post-virus business landscape, there is a requirement of a larger focus on health, safety and hygiene conditions of employees, customers and public at large, Quality Council of India along with industry stakeholders, has developed a harmonized “**Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene**” (WASH)” which will be a value added tool applicable for assessment of any workplace, which has been allowed to operate under nCovid scenario.

Assessment shall be done as an on-site assessment remotely through a virtual system of assessment by QCI trained experienced assessors. The assessment report will provide the applicant with an objective assessment of the safety and hygiene measures undertaken by them to mitigate the risk of nCOVID-19 infection.

Scope and Applicability:

- WASH standard is applicable to any Organizations / Industry / Business (Manufacturing, Service, Trade, etc.)
- Applications can be received at any juncture of business operations, i.e. before re-start or during operations.
- The site-assessment conducted at the applicant's workplace (or video assessment, as the case may be) will be based on the requirements as laid down in “Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene (WASH)” Standard and Guidance Document.
- Areas that are under Quarantine or those workplaces that need an expert medical/related assessment/advise are not covered under the scope of this Standard.
- This Standard does not include requirements specific to other subjects, such as those for quality, social responsibility, environmental, security or financial management.

Objective:

- To provide a holistic report to client on the preparedness of its system and processes related to Hygiene & Safety with regards to COVID-19 risk.
- To provide information useful for identifying and improving on the weak links related to Hygiene & Safety in the operations and the workplace of the applicant organization/institution
- To provide assurance to organizations / business units / industries by verifying compliance against the applicable requirements stated by MHA, other government bodies (local, state and national), or industry specific guidelines, if any



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Why WASH Assessment:

- To ensure compliance to all mandatory orders and directives as applicable and issued by MHA, other government bodies (local, state and national), or industry specific guidelines, if any, prior to re-operationalization or reopening
- To protect and reassure employees, clients, guests, visitors by minimizing risks through adherence to mandatory requirements and best practices
- To help identify gaps in the process and drive stringent improvement program

Assessment Agency:

Integrated Quality Certification Pvt Ltd is a registered “Assessment Agency” under the WASH (Workplace Assessment for Safety & Hygiene) Scheme of Quality Council of India with a unique identification number **WASHQCIAA019**.

We have experienced management system assessors and also trained by Quality Council of India to provide value added services for the benefit of the community and support Quality Council of India's objective of reopening economy with focus on safety and hygiene of interested parties.

For details regarding the scheme, please contact the following,

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