

DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Sub: Corona Virus Disease (COVID -19) Lockdown – Guidelines to be followed by the managements before restarting the factories involving hazardous process / dangerous operations

In view of COVID-19 and the prevailing situation across the state of Tamil Nadu, certain guidelines and directives have been issued to all the factories registered under Factories Act, 1948 and Tamil Nadu Factories Rules, 1950. The industrial accident involving toxic gas release has occurred during start up process in a chemical factory in our neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh. At this juncture the factories handling hazardous process / dangerous operations are instructed to follow the procedures while restarting the plants / processes without prejudice to the provisions of Factories Act 1948 and other applicable laws time being in force.

- 1.** All potential hazards involved in the start-up process shall be identified with respect to the materials, machinery and process and Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) shall be prepared and strictly followed.
- 2.** The operators adequately trained in the operating procedures and equipment control shall be engaged during start-up process under strict supervision of designated Safety Officers / competent persons.
- 3.** Prescribed personal protective equipments suitable to the working environment shall be provided to the persons engaged in the process.
- 4.** All types of storage tanks shall be checked for safety in terms of temperature, pressure and physical conditions.
- 5.** Proper working of all safety systems including Pressure gauges, Level gauges, Safety valves, Pressure relief valves, etc., shall be ensured and the safety equipments shall be Calibrated before start-up operations.
- 6.** The utility equipments like Boilers, Gensets, Cooling Tower, Air Compressor, etc., shall be checked for a trial run and the process shall be restarted after ensuring their safe operation.
- 7.** Permit to work system shall be strictly followed in all the areas and suitable precautionary measures shall be taken to mitigate all possible emergencies.

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