ADVISORY GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY OF OIL WORKERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
At the Forefront of the African Energy Industry

The African Energy Chamber (AEC) is the voice of Africa’s energy sector.

As the leading chamber of successful networks, transactions and partnerships at the helm of Africa’s growing energy industries, the AEC actively promotes the interests of the African continent, its companies and its people.

Together, we can shape Africa’s energy future.

Find out more about our work and our partners at www.energychamber.org

Email us at partners@energychamber.org

www.energychamber.org
Due to international and domestic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, the energy sector continues to sustain minimal systems operations, maintained by reduced workforces and essential personnel. While organizations have prepared to respond to emergencies similar in nature during simulation, the prolonged pandemic has seen the sector ask personnel to work lengthened schedules to honor imposed travel restrictions and meet supply and demand.

Presently, upstream oil and gas operators are all experiencing similar scenarios. Consequently, the upstream sector is at risk of critical system failure, elevated risk for injury, impacts on the health and mental wellbeing of the workforce and general overall potential interruptions to critical economic infrastructure. The continuation of the workforce not being able to receive necessary time away from work continues to exacerbate risk in the overall energy sector.

The following outlines Industry protocols for consideration which would reduce risk associated with fatigue and promote positive elements needed for journey management during the COVID-19 pandemic. A critical component of the continued success of the energy industry relies heavily on the safe working conditions of its workforce. As a responsible operator and partner to its working community, the Industry believes that its personnel need to be able to transition in and out of the workspace. This can and should be done with controls in place to reduce the potential of COVID-19 transmission.

The following advisory guidelines will assist in ensuring the movement and safety of offshore and onshore oil workers while preventing the spread of COVID-19 linked to international operations in host countries.

- Implementing screening of all travelers effectively to prevent people with symptoms (or who have been in close contact with people that do have symptoms) from mobilizing;
- Adhering to local government guidance and international best practices;
- Providing clear travel guidance to individuals mobilizing and demobilizing;
- Adopting good social distancing practices during travel and in the workplace where practical;
- Adhering to the Government quarantine periods upon arrival on location;
- Reacting quickly to anyone that develops symptoms at locations, including isolation and medical treatment;
- Maintaining good standards of personal hygiene and cleaning.
The implementation of these guidelines need to be made keeping in mind two major factors. First, the need to protect communities and population of the host countries from the risks of international travel. Second, minimizing the financial impact on the host country generated from oil and gas production. Consequently, the following agreements are required:

- Pre-Mobilization Protocol to be established in agreement with international healthcare companies and governmental health bodies;
- Agreed quarantine locations and duration in host location. Such locations are to be set up by companies for their staff and agreed/inspected by local healthcare representatives;
- Authorizations for inbound charter/commercial flights mobilizing essential staff from a single international location;
- Authorizations for in-country transfer of staff between locations following exit from quarantine, this should involve minimum exposure to the local community to eliminate any possibility of cross infection;
- Agreed rotational cycle for expatriate staff and local employees to ensure fatigue and exhaustion do not impact the safe operations of oil and gas facilities;
- Visas authorization for expatriate staff and essential technical vendor support staff.
The below outlines the process that should be implemented to ensure that inbound international travelers are free from COVID-19 prior to departure from their country of origin. This process also takes into consideration the physical and mental health concerns that offshore and onshore workers face during the response to the ongoing pandemic. Domestic travelers will participate in similar instructions prior to mobilization to those of international travelers in a monitored quarantine facility.

- All international travelers will be screened in their home country prior to mobilization. This process will take 1-3 days for laboratory results to be officially processed.
  - In the event of a NEGATIVE test result, the traveler will self-isolate at their private resident awaiting company authorized air transportation approval;
  - In the event of a POSITIVE test result, the traveler will receive treatment and retest in 14 to 21 days. Travel will be suspended until (2) NEGATIVE test results are collected;
- All international travelers will submit a Certificate of Health to governmental health officials and begin quarantine procedures authorized by the host country;
- All international travelers will be placed in supervised quarantine at a designated facility for 14 days. Security and health monitoring provisions are in place to reduce potential for cross contamination;
- Upon completion of quarantine, health authorities will be notified to supply certification of health for personnel to be transferred to facilities for project or work activities;
- Personnel should remain on the facility for no more than 42 days;
- Personnel should re-patriate to their home country;
- Personnel should have 35 days off;
- Personnel should repeat screening process as indicated above prior to re-mobilization to locations;
- Mandatory 14-day quarantine will be followed through the COVID-19 response period.