

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Guidelines on Safety Committee Meetings During COVID-19

Can our safety committee miss monthly meetings during the COVID-19 crisis?

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation commends all employers for making the safety of their employees a priority – especially when dealing with COVID-19. The Bureau recognizes what an asset a safety committee can be during a crisis. However, they will not view the lack of in-person safety committee meetings as an issue of non-compliance. When evaluating compliance with the regulations, the safety committee process is evaluated for a three-year period. The inability to hold meetings during this defined crisis period will not impact that evaluation. In addition, they do not intend to require employers focused on getting operational again to double-up on safety committee meetings.

What happens if all committee members do not receive their annual training?

Annual training can be conducted anytime during the safety committee's policy period. Training is not required to be the last step prior to submitting a renewal application. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, they understand that many safety committees will be unable to meet to receive the training. Health and Safety will continue offering the certification at least once a week throughout the COVID-19 situation. Committee members can register for certification training by going to the PATHS training calendar at www.dli.pa.gov/PATHS. Once registered, log in from home with a cell phone, tablet or computer with internet access. In instances where all committee members are not trained, the lack of training will not be viewed as an issue of noncompliance.

Will there be any extensions to the certification deadline to get our initial or renewal application submitted?

Everyone is encouraged to attempt to submit their applications via HandS within the regulated timeframe of 90-30 days prior to the policy renewal for initial applications and 90-15 days prior to the policy renewal for renewal applications. It is understood that the evolving COVID-19 situation is affecting everyone's ability to maintain normal operations; for this reason, late submissions of safety committees that have deadlines that fall during the defined crisis period will be allowed. Once your company resumes daily operations, contact BWC, Health & Safety at RA-LI-BWC-Safety.

If you have questions, contact:
Laurie Deitrich, CSP, ARM, HEM
Risk Control Specialist
717.572.5684 or [email](#)

