



SAFE – Sammenslutningen
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Et rettferdig arbeidsliv

Safe elected representatives and members

30.03.2020

Corona info from SAFE 30.03.20

Quarantine measures before departure offshore:

SAFE has been informed that in some companies routines have been initiated regarding government required quarantine stay.

For employees living abroad (except for Sweden and Finland) a 14-day isolation period is required before one can stay and/or work in Norway.

For the employer it is obvious and essential that the employee ready and fit to perform duties at the workplace. The employer provides for food and accommodation to make this quarantine period possible. This is a voluntary arrangement introduced by the company and not a general policy.

It is obvious that workers depend on their salaries and when the alternative is "suspended employment without pay" consequently this is not being a real option for most people. This translates being in quarantine for 14 days in a hotel before engaging in a 14 to 21 day offshore hitch followed by a 14 days isolation period before returning your country of residence afterwards. This will be a hopeless situation! The employee will not be out of quarantine to enter his home country when in actual fact one has to return to Norway to start a new quarantine period ahead of his next offshore hitch. The employee does not get the opportunity to follow up on his family at all, coming home only briefly during his or her time off period.

At present however this is the only offer from the employer to enable individuals to earn their salary. There are a number of local differences as to if and how one is entitled to compensation during the quarantine period. Discussions regarding options for a "travel pass" have taken place with the purpose to simplify the quarantine regulations. At the time of writing no definite answers have surfaced and SAFE has no answer to the question how far these discussion have come.

SAFE has addressed and forwarded this issue to the Government via YS. Besides this clearly being challenging for the individual also our welfare system is not clear in terms of sickness benefits, unemployment benefits etc, for foreign employees. In any case definitely SAFE is engaged in the matter.

SAFE has received information that some companies have a broad interpretation and definition of "key positions". We feel that sometimes the goal here is to avoid quarantine. Personnel from abroad are moving in and onward directly to their respective workplace, whether these particular positions qualify as "key critical" is considered nevertheless questionable. SAFE is at present investigating these events and has had a dialogue with the Norwegian Maritime Directorate to become informed of their views in relation to exemptions and definitions they have regarding **"Key positions, key operating personnel and crew positions"**.

Such in a light where other companies choose to impose strict corporate quarantine measures independent from the authorities. SAFE insists that when companies choose for extended quarantine periods, it must be compensated for according to the tariff.

YS and the cooperation with the Government:

YS participates in the work creating various "emergency packages" ultimately provided by the Government, here SAFE's input is considered and/or included. Several members have noticed that the media only refers to the NHO – LO without mentioning for instance the other parties such as YS. This is regrettable, since YS is engaged and involved in all the steps taking place at Government level. Today there has been a meeting with both the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Social Affairs regarding extraordinary measures concerning the working hour protocol. Before the weekend SAFE contributed a comprehensive document, further YS underlined and stressed that in good organized areas of the working environment there is no need to interfere or make any exception. The involved parties in the labor market are fully capable to solve this themselves.

Oil prices:

Today Norway woke up facing the lowest oil prices it has seen in 17 years. This is disturbing. It is a combination of less energy demand combined with a shutdown of main industries etc, in a world which seems to disfunction and lacks cooperation in terms of oil and gas production ceilings. Opec, Russia and Saudi Arabia are almost engaged in a price war, when they now are supplying oil even though there is no storages capacity left unoccupied. In the short run this is very unfortunate, since this will result in and will be followed by operators reducing their investments and delay projects. This is a very undesirable situation. For how long the corona crisis will dominate we have no idea, neither for how long these low oil prices will continue. For an industry that was making a rebound and seeing positive trends, this is not good at all.

Greetings from the workplaces:

We encourage you to send a little video clip from the workplace. Take a picture and send us your regards. Get in touch using messenger (Hilde-Marit Rysst), we will post and publish the greeting pictures and so on our web pages. Important of course with a positive view on your everyday life. :-)

Yours sincerely
See Photos
SAFE AU