



MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association



JUNE 15, 2020

No Meetings Scheduled

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLOTH FACE COVERING IN THE WORKPLACE

Employers are required to provide workers with the appropriate type of face covering, mask, or respirator, depending on the level of risk for their specific type of work. The Department of Labor and Industries has published a matrix that can be used to determine the proper selection and use of face coverings and respirators. One of the exceptions to required facial coverings at the workplace is if an employee is “working alone.” An employee is “working alone,” when they are isolated from interaction with other people and have little to no expectation of in-person interruption. The Department has released an FAQ page to further clarify the example of “working alone,” the page can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

SMALL BUSINESSES COULD BE CAUGHT IN PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS PROCESS INTO 2022 AND BEYOND

Small businesses seeking loan forgiveness through the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program, could be caught in a process dragging out to 2022 — or even later, according to experts.

“I think that this could extend beyond 2022, said Tenley Carp, a Partner at law firm Arnold Golden Gregory LLP, adding the multiple layers of review and an as-yet undefined appeals process could take a while to settle. “I can see how a company could still be dealing with loan forgiveness issues into 2023.” Here is how the process looks right now.

1. Small businesses that had the eight-week covered period as part of their loan can apply for forgiveness in the coming weeks and be done much sooner. But companies that use the new 24-week covered period enshrined in the recently passed Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act will start applying for forgiveness after that's over — with the last possible date of the covered period being Dec. 31, 2020, for those who get loans on June 30th, the last day applications will be approved.
2. Once the covered period is over, businesses have 10 months to apply for loan forgiveness to their lender. The lender has 60 days to make a decision. If the lender rejects forgiveness, a small business has 30 days to ask SBA to review the decision, but there is no timeline for an SBA review.
3. If a lender agrees the small business gets forgiveness, it passes its decision to the SBA, which then has 90 days to agree or reject that determination. Small businesses can then appeal the SBA decision, but that process has yet to be defined, although the SBA said it will issue guidance on the appeals process.

The appeals process could spell trouble for a smaller agency like the SBA, Carp said, adding the agency does not even do its own procurement for some IT services. That could create a bottleneck in the system that slows potential appeals or reviews of forgiveness decisions.

“If there are 4.5 million companies in the queue, you want to be early, not late,” Carp said. “I think a lot of small businesses will be very surprised at what a long and involved process it is to obtain loan forgiveness.”

NECA MEMBERS RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT ON KEEN WORK BOOTS



Whether you are working in some of the toughest, dirtiest, wettest, hottest environments or clocking some of the longest hours on your feet, KEEN Utility has designed work boots for any environment, and is giving NECA Members a 15% discount. KEEN is a company based in Portland, Oregon, all 100 plus work boots are made in the USA and include all Safety Toe Options Available: steel, composite, aluminum, and soft toe. Boots also meet certain ASTM safety and slip-score certifications.

To check out the selection of boots at the discounted rate, click [here](#)

UPCOMING NECA WEBINAR: OSHA REGULATORY UPDATES FOR COVID-19

Please register for the upcoming NECA Webinar which will take place on Thursday, June 18th, 11:00 AM. The webinar will focus on OSHA's continued guidance and enforcement details for construction employers. With new information emerging almost daily, staying on top of the latest directives is important and Adele Abrams, President of the Law Office of Adele L. Abrams, will guide safety professionals through the latest maze of federal, state, and local enforcement actions. Register today for this informative webinar by clicking [here](#). Note: You will need your NECA National user ID and password to register for this event. For assistance, contact Justin Thayer at 206-824-2150 or justin@necaseattle.org

CAN'T FIND PLEXIGLASS? YOU ARE NOT ALONE

It is a good time to be in the plexiglass business. Makers of acrylic barriers, including sneeze and cough guards, cubicle extenders and personal face shields, have seen such a significant uptick in demand from stores, restaurants, offices and other businesses that have begun reopening, that they can barely keep their products in stock. Plexiglass product manufacturers across the country are reporting up to a 30-fold spike in sales as public health experts release guidelines for retrofitting workspaces to make them safe for employees who are returning.

Mark Canavarro, an office designer and founder and CEO of Obex Office Panel Extenders in Vista California, whose signature product is a patented cubicle wall extender, said sales have soared 3,000% since March. "In February, we averaged \$30,000 to \$40,000 per week in sales. We did over a million dollars last week," he said. Canavarro typically fulfills orders within two to three weeks, a time frame that is now lengthened to five to seven weeks, despite working around the clock.

"It's a battle every day to source it. We have someone working full time on getting loads of acrylic in because there has been a shortage."

Even if a vaccine is developed for COVID 19, Canavarro expects 25% of these installations will remain permanent. "Receptionists run into 50 to 100 people every day and it's not just COVID, there is all kinds of other stuff they could contract from people."



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY 1846 – The U.S. and Canadian Border is established. Representatives of Great Britain and the United States sign the Oregon Treaty, which settles a long-standing dispute with Britain over who controlled the Oregon territory. The treaty established the 49th parallel from the Rocky Mountains to the Strait of Georgia as the boundary between the United States and British Canada. The United States gained formal control over the future states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana; and the British retained Vancouver Island and navigation rights to part of the Columbia River.

“Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will.”

— **Suzy Kassem**

As of Friday, June 12th, there are 260 JW on Book 1 and 118 JW on Book 2. There are currently 39 Commercial Apprentices, 0 S&C Apprentices, and 0 Residential Apprentices available for dispatch. There are 0 unfilled Commercial, 1 unfilled S&C and 0 unfilled Residential Apprentice requests.