

BUILDING FITNESS INDICATOR

A SOCIAL INITIATIVE OF GRIHA COUNCIL

APRIL 28, 2020 - WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK



Reply to the queries raised during the webinar

Sr. No.	Question	Reply
1	Does the PPE for housekeeping staff have to be disposed off after every cleaning activity, suppose it is done thrice a day?	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (MoHFW, GoI) and World Health Organization (WHO) have given out guidelines for the proper disposal of disposable PPE after each use. Each disposable PPE should either be disposed off in a yellow disposable bag or cleaned thoroughly as per WHO guidelines. All multiple use PPE should be cleaned thoroughly with soap base solution or 1% sodium hypochlorite cleaning agent.
2	Will you be sharing this on your website?	Yes, the recording of the webinar will be uploaded on the GRIHA website.
3	How safe are the disinfectant tunnels? There is lot of questions raised on this?	There are various versions of the disinfectant tunnels springing up across the country and there are lots of questions raised about the regulatory guidelines or clear benefits. World Health Organization warns that these tunnels are meant to supplement, and not a replacement of other measures like regular hand washing, maintaining proper hygiene, social distancing and so on.
4	Are there separate guidelines for educational institutes?	The BFI tool or the guidelines referred to make the tool, may be used to derive specific guidelines for educational institutes. Primarily, parameters such as rearrangement of work stations in lecture halls, laboratories, staff rooms and dining spaces and floor marking wherever queuing is anticipated can be adopted at educational institutes without modification. Similarly the waste management concept can be applied as it is.
5	Can the same be applied to residential societies, supermarkets, shops?	BFI is presently applicable for workplace only. Nonetheless, the guidelines used for making the BFI tool, may be referred to derive specific guidelines for typologies as well.
6	Can there be another set available for public	The BFI tool is currently limited to office buildings

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	transportation?	only.
7	Are all questions in the tool compulsory or the assessee can skip some?	It is mandatory to answer all the questions in the tool. The user is required to answer either in 'Yes' or 'No'. Any unanswered/skipped question will be construed as 'No'.
8	Are there different norms for canteens and food outlet in work place??	The BFI tool has integrated the recommendations for dining spaces/canteen in a work place.
9	Are there guidelines for small offices with less than 15 employees functioning from residential buildings such as Chartered Accountant, Architect, Business Consultants etc. Thanks	Yes, the BFI tool can be used to assess the preparedness of such small offices as well.
10	Is there any weightage for different questions?	No, there is no weightage assigned to the questions. The BFI tool is a self-assessment tool that will allow organization/building owners to measure the preparedness of the workplaces.
11	Also, whether few points are mandatory points also or nothing is mandatory	Implementation of the strategies mentioned in the tool is up to the proponent. However, answering all the questions on the tool is mandatory. It could either be in 'yes' or 'no'. Any unanswered/skipped question will be construed as 'no'.
12	Are these guidelines applicable to occupied buildings or construction progress buildings also. If so, there would be many points that would not be applicable there. How to cater that?	BFI is primarily for occupied commercial spaces i.e. workplace. But, the same concept can be applied for other typologies too.
13	Any validation methods/recommended specs etc. for PPE and equipment for waste management?	As per MoHFW guidelines, the housekeeping staff dealing with waste management must be provided with three layered masks, rubber boots and heavy duty gloves. Disposable PPE must be disposed off safely. Maharashtra Pollution Control board has issued specific guidelines for the management of all sorts of wastes including biomedical wastes with PPE. Please refer the link for detailed guidelines. http://mpcb.gov.in/waste-management/biomedical-waste
14	How the reference link works?	One has to click on the link and it will directly take you to the external website from where the reference has been sourced.

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15	Whether this analysis/ report with some benchmark points mandatory for GRIHA registered buildings?	No, there is no linkage with the GRIHA registered projects. The BFI is a self-assessment tool, separate from GRIHA rating, conceived to measure the preparedness of the organization.
16	Can we run through this tool multiple times?	Yes, one can run the tool multiple times.
17	Are there any guidelines for classrooms -can you suggest?	The BFI tool or the guidelines referred to make the tool, may be used to derive specific guidelines for classrooms for example parameters such as rearrangement of seating arrangement.
18	How much minimum alcohol percentage should be there in sanitizers installed at workplace?	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends, the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol as the preferred form of hand hygiene.
19	Any material finishes that could be useful?	The query is not very clear at the moment to address. You may write to us at info@grihaindia.org
20	A suggestion for discussion: we have come across various medical articles that say that for a non-symptomatic person, as the disease progresses, but not visible by increase of temperature of the individual, then the Blood Oxygen levels start dropping and if they are less than 90%, as tested by a simple Pulse Oximeter, it means that there is some problem, and such people should not be allowed entry into the building. This can easily be checked out by consulting the medical profession. Thank you.	The suggestion has been well taken.
21	For toilets, one should prefer non touch taps, soap dispensers and a sign that says that one should wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before touching the paper towels and or high speed dryers. In case of high speed dryer use, the room should preferably not be used by more than one person while it is being used.	The suggestion has been well taken. Presently, the awareness category caters to this aspect.
22	Why not have the organizations using this tool, have a display that is connected by WiFi with GRIHA and automatically gives the number or result for everyone to see - similar to the USGBC LEED Dynamic Plaque. This will make the whole process very transparent and	The suggestion has been well taken. Given that BFI was conceptualized as a self-evaluation tool, limited dependency was kept.

- WEBINAR ON -

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	companies complying will opt out for this.	
23	Can we use this for construction site offices?	BFI is presently applicable for workplace, which includes sizeable construction site offices as well.
24	Are there any other similar tools/indicators available for assessing buildings?	Presently, we have not come across any such tool.
25	Pl share on news GRIHA newsletter whenever available	Yes, we will be including a small write up on BFI in our coming newsletter.
26	Can you please share the webinar recording as I missed the beginning?	The recording of the webinar will be uploaded on the GRIHA website.
27	Which kind of filters to be used?	As per ISHRAE, it is advisable to provide a MERV 13 or higher filter fitted on the air handling unit.