

# MASTER BUILDERS SA RESTRICTIONS DAY ONE

21 JULY 2021

## What work is permitted in the building and construction industry?

Over the last 24 hours there has been some confusion over what work can be undertaken on site during the lockdown.

Overnight the State Government released new Declaration with Level 5 restrictions. These can be accessed here [covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/activities-and-gatherings/current-activity-restrictions](https://covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/activities-and-gatherings/current-activity-restrictions)

The Declaration sets out what work is considered essential and therefore exempt from the lockdown restrictions. It is important that businesses should not use these exemptions as an excuse to go to site or send employees to site. The time spent on site should be kept to a minimum and only the exempt work conducted.

The following is a summary of the current exemptions for our industry:

“Essential infrastructure (within the meaning of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016) and essential services (within the meaning of the Essential Services Act 1981) and other services required to maintain and protect human health, safety and wellbeing including electricity, gas, water, sewerage, drainage and liquid fuels and refinery operations; waste and recycling services (including collection, treatment and disposal services and transfer stations), but only those services that are provided to commercial contractors; and construction, maintenance and repair of schools, roads and other essential infrastructure”

“Critical repairs or works to any facility, site or premises where required for emergency or safety or to maintain and ensure the integrity of critical plant, equipment or assets, including partially completed works, that would otherwise deteriorate (and including any associated matter such as any necessary assessment for insurance purposes, or engineering or other expert assessment or inspection)”

“Maintenance and security of food and beverage facilities and supplies at any business premises or sporting facility.”

“Urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person, animal or premises e.g. The performance of emergency plumbing services or Centrelink services, Food banks”

## FAQs

### What work is considered exempt?

- Any work that is critical to making a building site safe and secure;
- Work that will prevent deterioration over the next 7 days;
- Ensuring any building materials are securely stored; and
- Checking on the site if there are concerns over safety or security

### What are the definitions of essential infrastructure and essential services?

According to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, essential infrastructure is:—

(a) infrastructure, equipment, structures, works and other facilities used in or in connection with—

- (i) the generation of electricity or other forms of energy; or
- (ii) the distribution or supply of electricity, gas or other forms of energy;

and

(b) water infrastructure or sewerage infrastructure within the meaning of the Water Industry Act 2012;

(c) transport networks or facilities (including roads, railways, busways, tramways, ports, wharfs, jetties, airports and freight-handling facilities);

(d) causeways, bridges or culverts; and

(e) embankments, walls, channels, drains, drainage holes or other forms of works or earthworks;

(f) testing or monitoring equipment;

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(g) coast protection works or facilities associated with sand replenishment;

(h) communications networks;

(i) health, education or community facilities;

(j) police, justice or emergency services facilities; and

(k) other infrastructure, equipment, buildings, structures, works or facilities brought within the ambit of this definition by the regulations.

## **Can we continue working on residential building or renovation?**

No. The only work that can be undertaken is for critical repairs or required for emergency or safety or to maintain and ensure the integrity of critical plant, equipment or assets, including partially completed works that would otherwise deteriorate.

## **The roof is only partially on, can I finish the work?**

Yes, if installing the roof will make the site secure or, in the case of renovations, ensure the occupants have a safe premises, then the work can be undertaken.

## **Can we check on our sites during the lockdown?**

Yes. If there is reason to believe the site may not be safe or secure. In addition, if the site is not safe or secure work can be undertaken to ensure that it is. Work must be of a critical nature and required to ensure site safety, security or to ensure there is not a deterioration of the premises.

With a significant amount of rain and high winds forecast for the end of the week, it is anticipated that sites will need to checks and potentially repair work completed. It is important to ensure only critical work is done and the time on site is minimised.

## **Can a concrete pour go ahead?**

A concrete pour can only go ahead in very limited circumstances, such as, if by not doing the pour this will result in a genuine deterioration of the site or a safety issue.

## **We have been directed by our client/head contractor to return to site. What should we do?**

If the work is classified as an essential service, you may be able to work. In regard to government work, Master Builders SA is currently working with DIT to determine which of their projects may be considered essential. Members should not return to the DIT site unless they have been authorised to do so. For private work that is considered essential, we encourage members to have open communication with their clients to determine if the work is genuinely exempt.

If you are concerned about the status of a project, contact Master Builders SA on the number below.

If you have any other questions we encourage you to give us a call on 8211 7466 so that we can update our FAQ and assist all members.