



Switching on to a new way of working and continuing to stay safe

Over the last couple of months, we have seen an increase in enquiries for membership, along with many questions from people inside and outside of the industry who are simply looking for quick fixes when it comes to cleaning.

It remains imperative that we remain focused and continue to share information with you that aligns with the DNA of the Institute – BICSc membership, standards, training and education with accreditation, which is recognised across the globe.

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BICSc training is designed to teach candidates to clean safely, effectively and efficiently.

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Becoming a member of the Institute doesn't automatically mean you are endorsed or accredited to deliver a particular type of cleaning service. What it does mean is that you are investing in your people and you agree to our code of conduct and support the Institute's mission, which is:

To raise the standards of education and to build awareness of the cleaning industry through professional standards and accredited training, thereby;

Protecting the Operative

Providing a Clean and Safe Environment

Preserving Assets

Promoting Sustainability

Producing Best Practice

Whilst restrictions are now easing, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels where cleaning and hygiene regimes are concerned, no matter where we work!

We know that for months to come (perhaps even years) cleaning must adapt and change considerably.



Cleaning regimes and outbreak responses should be built into business continuity plans (now, there's a thought).

There is undoubtedly still confusion around what we should be doing and with daily updates from the World Health Organisation, Public Health England and the HSE to name a few, it can be difficult to understand the facts. With this in mind, we wanted to offer some digestible guidance that will help keep you, your team and your clients feeling safe as we see a phased return to our different workplaces.

CONSIDER - how much additional time and resource will now be required to meet the needs of the clients and contract delivery, which make all involved feel secure and safe.

IDENTIFY - Has there been an actual outbreak on the sites your operatives are working in? If so, follow decontamination/disinfection procedures and protocols, some are requesting this type of clean prior to reopening.

THINK - Are you cleaning, decontaminating or disinfecting?

ENSURE - a Return to Work Risk Assessment has been carried out and you should complete COSHH assessments for new chemicals. Visit www.citation.co.uk for assistance on H&S matters.

FOLLOW - Always follow manufacturers guidelines on products and machinery. Use the correct dilution rates, incorrect dilution cause shortages and will stop the product working correctly.

BE AGILE & ADAPT - Things have changed, communication is king, you could create checklists to help with additional tasks, most importantly set expectations and keep people updated.

ADOPT - Adopt the team cleaning format. This means the operatives are responsible for using less equipment personally and the machinery tends not to be shared between the team members as happens with zone cleaning. The team can be adapted to any number of staff with the duties split between them so that all areas are cleaned but with designated equipment so that multi handling is eliminated.

ENVIRONMENTS - Consider the working environment, offices, educational facilities, healthcare settings are all very different spaces and will require differing levels of attention.





Product Knowledge

Are the products you are using proven to kill ALL strains of COVID-19? By the middle of May 2020 there were a reported 14 mutations of the virus. Beware, you do not want to pay the price for this at a later date.

The only way to be sure products are proven to be effective is to look for the independent testing of the product to approved British Standards, EN codes are a check that independent testing has been carried out. EN refers to a European Standard, a standard is a document that sets out requirements for a specific item, material, component, system or service, or describes in detail a particular method or procedure.

BS EN numbers give specific standards that refer to sporicidal, bactericidal, fungicidal and viricidal kill properties of products.

BS EN 1276 is the bactericidal standard, generally found on washroom products and effective against Ecoli, pneumonia and tetanus to name but a few bacteria.

BS EN 13704 is the sporicidal standard, useful for cases of C.difficile as the bacteria can form spores which are more difficult to kill than the original bacteria.

BS EN 1650 is the fungicidal standard effective against fungal infections such as ringworm, athletes foot and thrush.

BS EN 14476 and EN 14675 the viricidal standard so products checked to this would be classed as Viricides, as enveloped viruses the product has to first break down the cell structure this enabling the product to kill the enveloped virus.

Advice from World Health Organisation and Public Health England recommends the use of viricidal products to combat COVID-19

BE AWARE - of the key touch points:

- Door furniture
- Lift control panels
- Handrails
- Photocopier control panels
- Kitchenette equipment – kettles, fridge handles, taps, drink containers
- Washrooms – door handles, toilet seats, flush mechanisms, taps, soap dispensers and waste bin lids



What Can We Do?

UP THE FREQUENCY:

- Especially in washrooms and heavy footfall areas, more attention should be paid to door handles, desks, phones, computers, mouse, calculators etc. Smaller items maybe the responsibility of the individual rather than the operative.
- ALWAYS wash and dry your hands thoroughly, even when you arrive at your place of work, and before and after each task.

THINK:

- Ensure where possible that efficient hand washing is carried out after contact with these key points.
- Remember the key touch points in your own workspace too, telephones, keyboards, computers, staplers, calculators, are these dedicated to a personal workspace or are they shared? The correct wipe with a suitable viricidal product can ensure these items remain safe and infection free, help prevent the spread of infection with good housekeeping procedures.

PPE:

- Hand protection is essential, as is hand washing and emollient moisturising, as well as maintaining good personal hygiene – hands should be washed before and after each task.
- Whilst at this time masks have not been classed as essential PPE, face protection will help to minimise the risk protecting both operative and those that the operative may come into contact with.
- We know that PPE plays a role in minimising infection of course, equally an efficiently and effectively cleaned workplace is key to breaking the chain of infection.

BE BICS_c:

- Ensure up to date risk assessments and method statements are in place (this should include social distancing measures)
- Are your operatives trained in the control of cross-contamination? This will ensure the spread of any infection is minimised.
- Following our recommended colour-coding guidelines will ensure there is no cross-contamination – [download your copy here](#)
- Follow the 'clean to dirty' path - clean from the cleanest areas to the dirtiest to minimise cross-contamination
- Use systematic overlapping passes so that all the surface area is efficiently and effectively cleaned

The New Normal

DOCERE
PURGARE



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THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF CLEANING SCIENCE

STAY CONNECTED

For the latest guidance and advice, please follow the below links:

- BICSc Guidance Notes are available here for decontamination and disinfection cleaning: <https://www.bics.org.uk/outbreak-decontamination-and-infection-control-guidance-notes/>
- BICSc News & Updates - <https://www.bics.org.uk>
- UK Government Advice - <https://www.gov.uk>
- World Health Organisation - <https://www.who.int>
- Health & Safety Executive - <https://bit.ly/2zSNLRw>
- Citation - <https://bit.ly/2WN01fo>
- Darwin Clayton - <https://bit.ly/2zVhr0s>



The light is shining on our industry,
let's pull together and raise standards!

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