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Healthcare organization management — Infection prevention and control (IPC) measures for cross-border workers

National foreword

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 304, *Healthcare organization management*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, each country is taking precautionary measures against the influx of infected patients from overseas through entry restrictions (see Annex A). Such restrictions on cross-border movements deter economic, social, and cultural exchanges and cooperation, and threaten the business continuity of companies, thereby adversely affecting the global economy (–4,9 % 2020 global economic growth rate, source: IMF).

During a pandemic such as COVID-19, industries most directly affected by the discontinued business operations are energy, construction, and manufacturing due to their heavy dependence on overseas production. The business entities that fall under these industries require constant movement of their staff to overseas production sites; and when the onsite absence of essential dispatch staff is prolonged, production and developments are disrupted.

Such disruptions can lead to a vicious cycle in the global economy and ultimately the global community where production plunges and the plunge affects corporate revenue and employment capacity causing market demand to diminish. To prevent such a situation from becoming structured, a set of standardized cross-border travel procedures facilitating the movement of workers vital to the continuity of the economy during a pandemic becomes essential.

This document focuses on practical information for facilitating the full cycle of cross-border business travel amidst a pandemic when the majority of nations are restricting entry.

NOTE COVID-19 is an exemplary disease for which the infection prevention and control (IPC) measures are developed.

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Healthcare organization management — Infection prevention and control (IPC) measures for cross-border workers

1 Scope

This document specifies the infection prevention and control (IPC) measures for cross-border workers. It is applicable only in the circumstance of novel infectious disease outbreak while valid vaccine or drug for treatment are not available. It can be used for the purpose of maintaining economic activities when a country that workers need to enter blocks its border due to a pandemic or epidemic (Annex A).

This document provides information on the key aspects and details of the process requirements, procedures for selecting service providers, such as travel management company, and procedures for cross-border workers amidst a pandemic, encompassing the complete set of stages from 'pre-departure', 'border crossing', 'quarantine and commute', to 'return', and is addressed to all stakeholders involved in travel, whether from the public or private sector.

NOTE Stakeholders are comprised of but not limited to health authority, healthcare organization and screening stations, accommodation services, transportation services, travel agencies, and private companies including their contractors and providers.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
border crossing
place on a shared border between two countries where people cross

3.2
business trip
single round journey an individual makes on business

3.3
charter flight
hired flight in an aircraft for a predetermined payment

3.4
commute
travel regularly between two points in space

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