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Construction Industry Development Board

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## **SPECIFICATION FOR HIV/AIDS AWARENESS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

*Research indicates that the South African construction industry has the third highest incidence of HIV/Aids in South Africa. The construction sector has a predominantly migratory labour force, making it a prime contributor to the spread of HIV/Aids. Labour camps are a breeding ground for the spread of HIV/Aids and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), this being compounded by the situation where migrant workers on contract generally avoid or are ignorant of the consequences of casual sexual relationships.*

*The prevalence of subcontracting, the emergence of many small contractors and the tendency toward labour-only subcontracting increases the complexity of developing an effective HIV/ Aids strategy that targets the full spectrum of those employed in construction. This level of complexity places a special responsibility on clients, the professions and industry leaders.*

*The construction sector has the potential to play an important role in the country's inter-sectoral approach to coping with the epidemic. The sector also provides entry-level local jobs, which may be crucial to the survival of youth-headed households and extended families in areas hard hit by the epidemic. Construction sites can accordingly provide a convenient location for HIV/Aids programmes to both construction workers and rural communities.*

*This generic specification makes provision for the following four strategies to be implemented in engineering and construction works contracts:*

1. *Raising awareness about HIV/ AIDs.  
- increased understanding about the disease, through dissemination of information and by generating discussion.*
2. *Ensuring that construction workers have access to condoms.*
3. *HIV counseling, testing and referral services.*
4. *Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) diagnosis and treatment.*

*These strategies are designed to build an HIV resilient workforce as well as communities associated with the workforce. .i.e. communities that are able to draw on its own capacity to prevent further transmission of HIV, minimise the impact of the HIVAIDS epidemic, and talk about HIVAIDS.*

**Obtainable from the**

**Construction Industry Development Board**

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## 1 Scope

This generic specification contains requirements applicable to the reduction of the risk of transfer of the HIV virus between and among construction workers and the local community through the following four strategies:

- a) raising awareness about HIV/AIDS;
- b) providing construction workers with access to condoms;
- c) HIV counseling, testing and referral services; and
- d) Sexually Transmitted Infection diagnosis and treatment.

## 2 Normative references:

The following standard contains provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard:

SANS 4074 ISO 4074, *Condom Rubbers*

## 3 Definitions and Abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

**Construction Worker:** all persons in the employ of the contractor or in the employ of any of the subcontractors contracted by the contractor.

**Local Community:** the communities local to the site which are most likely to have contact with the construction worker and, in particular, sex workers in those communities.

**Service provider:** the natural or juristic person recognised by the South African Department of Health as specialist in conducting Aids Awareness Programmes.

### 3.2 Abbreviations

STI: Sexually transmitted infection  
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

## 4 Objectives

The objectives are to:

- a) reduce the risk of transfer of the HIV virus between and among construction workers and the local community;
- b) raise awareness amongst construction workers and the local community of the risk of infection with the HIV virus;
- c) promote early diagnosis; and
- d) assist affected individuals to access care and counselling.

## 5 Requirements

### 5.1 General requirement

The contractor shall, in order to satisfy the objectives stated in 4:

- a) make condoms complying with the requirements of SABS ISO 4074 available to all construction workers at readily accessible points on the site, suitably protected from the elements, for the duration of the contract;
- b) either place and maintain HIV/AIDS awareness posters of size of not less than A1 in areas which are highly trafficked by construction workers, or provide construction workers with a pamphlet, in languages largely understood by construction workers, which reinforce the outcomes of the HIV Awareness Programme stated in 5.2.3
- c) encourage voluntary HIV/STI testing;
- d) provide information concerning counselling, support and care of those that are infected services; and
- e) comply with the requirements of 5.2.

## **5.2 HIV awareness programme**

5.2.1 The contractor shall:

- a) engage a qualified service provider as described in the scope of works to conduct an HIV Awareness Programme which is structured to achieve the outcomes stated in 5.2.3 for contract workers as soon as a construction workers camp is established and populated or, where no such camp is established, within two weeks of the commencement of a significant portion of the works and at subsequent intervals, if any, provided for in the scope of works; and
- b) arrange for, provide a suitable venue, and instruct all construction workers to attend the HIV Awareness Programme and notify the Employer's Representative of the date, time and venue whenever a session with construction workers is conducted.

**Note:** The National Department of Public Works maintains a list of qualified service providers.

5.2.2 The contractor shall do nothing to dissuade construction workers from attending such an HIV Awareness Programme and shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a minimum of 90% of construction workers engaged in the works attend such a programme, when it is conducted.

5.2.3 The outcomes of the HIV Awareness Programme shall as a minimum, result in contract workers exposed to such a programme being able to:

- a) communicate the existence of problems of HIV and be able to outline the consequences of transmission of HIV to or from the local community;
- b) recall and communicate the mode of HIV transmission and preventative measures including the proper use of the condom.

## **5.3 Reporting**

5.3.1 The contractor shall prepare and attach to his claims for payment a brief report which outlines how the actions taken by the contractor in the period for which payment is claimed satisfy the requirements and a schedule which lists the names, identity numbers, trade / occupation and name of employer of all construction workers exposed to the programme (see annex C).

5.3.2 The employer's representative shall certify the report and schedule described in 5.3.1 whenever a claim for payment is issued to the employer.

**Note:** In the event that the contractor fails to satisfy the requirements of this specification, the employer may apply any of the sanctions provided for in the contract. Sanctions may include the application of a financial penalty.



## ANNEX B: PRICING DATA

### (Informative)

The HIV/Aids awareness requirements contained in the standard specification can be priced in a number of ways. They can be deemed to be included in the sum tendered for contractual requirements and not be separately identified. Alternatively, they can be identified as a separate item / activity and be included in the bills of quantities or in activity schedules as a single item or a group of items.

#### **Example:**

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>RATE</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
1	<i>Conduct HIV /Aids Awareness Programme on Site for not less than 90% of workers inclusive of all direct and indirect costs.</i>	<i>number</i>		
2	<i>Provide and maintain condom dispenser</i>	<i>Number/ sum</i>		
3	<i>Provide and maintain HIV/AIDS awareness posters</i>	<i>number</i>		
4	<i>Provide information regarding the voluntary testing of construction workers and counselling, support and care.</i>	<i>sum</i>		

**ANNEX: C Compliance report**

**Contract number:**.....

**Payment Claim number:**..... **Period covered by payment claim:**.....

**1 Distribution of condoms** (briefly describe where and how condoms are distributed)

**2 Posters / pamphlets** (briefly describe where posters were placed / how pamphlets were distributed)

**3 Voluntary HIV/STI testing** (briefly describe the actions taken / information provided to promote testing)

**4 Counselling, support and care** (summarise information provided)

**5 HIV awareness programme** (briefly describe action)

**6 Schedule of construction workers exposed to the HIV awareness programme**

Name	Identity number	Trade / occupation	Name of employer

I hereby declare the above to be a true reflection of actions taken to ensure compliance with the specification

<b>For Contractor:</b>	<b>Employer's representative:</b>
<b>Name :</b>	<b>Name :</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Date</b>