



## COVID-19: Advice to distribution centres and other sites on maintaining social distancing for drivers

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### HSE eBulletin

Latest advice to distribution centres on social distancing for drivers during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak is below.

### Advice to distribution centres and other sites on maintaining social distancing for drivers

**Loading and unloading goods vehicles can put drivers and other workers at risk. It is important to consider all risks to the health, safety, and welfare of drivers delivering to and collecting from sites, and take reasonable and practical steps to safeguard drivers and mitigate risk to their health and safety.**

Many dutyholders manage the safety of visiting drivers in line with [HSE Guidance](#) by providing a dedicated waiting area with welfare facilities for drivers.

This helps to reduce the risks of unintended drive-away incidents during loading or unloading and of drivers being struck by fork lift trucks or other vehicles if they are walking around the site.

At the current time, it is important to maintain [social distancing](#) as much as possible to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and [Public Health England](#) guidelines on social distancing should be followed. Those in control of premises should think about how they maintain social distancing for visiting drivers while also ensuring that they have access to welfare facilities on site.

If existing facilities allow drivers to maintain social distancing, there may be no need to make any changes. However, if social distancing cannot be maintained, it may be safer, as a temporary measure for drivers to remain in their cab during loading or unloading or waiting areas to be relocated.

If changes are made to current arrangements, further consideration will need to be given to how pedestrians and vehicles can continue to circulate in a safe manner, avoiding the risk of drive-away incidents and how drivers can be allowed to safely access welfare facilities if required.

Visiting drivers must follow the arrangements that the dutyholder has put in place and follow the government's advice on hand washing.

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