



Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Clarification for Sales Centres, Office Openings and Renovation Projects Under COVID-19

Under the change announced late last week all construction is now deemed essential and may resume as normal subject to the Ministry of Labour Standards for Construction Site Health and Safety Under COVID 19. Ontario Regulation 223/20 has been filed (access here: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20223>) and is in effect as of 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

In order to provide members clarity on the starting of new renovations, office openings and opening of sales centres, the following clarification has been sought and provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).

1. "Construction" may include renovation work, as the sentence pertaining to renovation (30. iii.) was revoked and the work falls under the broader term, "construction work"
2. Sales/Décor centers may open, as interpreted through the following:

Schedule 2 to the Regulation is amended by adding the following paragraph:

2.5 Businesses that engage in the *retail sale*, or rental, of items to the public, that have *a public entrance that opens onto a street or exterior sidewalk and that are in compliance with section 2 of Schedule 3*.

And

Paragraphs 27, 28, 28.1, 29, 29.1, 29.2, 30, 30.1 and 31 of Schedule 2 to the Regulation are revoked and the following substituted:

Construction

27. Construction activities or projects and *related services that support construction activities or projects*, including demolition services.

Offices can be considered as a related support service and can open. Please note that the Ontario government through the PSHSA has created a set guidelines and best practices for offices under COVID-19. They can be accessed from <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/health-and-safety-association-guidance-documents-for-workplaces-during-the-covid-19-outbreak.html>