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Gafcon offers a 'return to office' template

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The San Diego-based construction management firm Gafcon Inc. has initiated a "Return-to-Office" service for those who own, operate and manage property to develop cost-saving way tools for safely reopening their businesses.

Gafcon's service, which relies heavily on available technology, intends to offer an organized, efficient way to manage multiple projects, contractors and even the expenditure of government funds across multiple facility locations while ensuring that spaces are ready for use.

Commercial property owners can use the service in deploying technology to prepare spaces for tenants to return during the COVID-19 pandemic. Owners are relying on government checklists, guidance and funding to ensure they have the people and finances in place to address everything from workstation distancing and conference room uses to air ventilation and handwashing stations

"Failure to implement these return-to-office readiness elements is not only a liability, but can be the difference between life and death," Gafcon stated.

When hurricanes Irma and Maria left a trail of destruction across the U.S. Virgin Islands, including many uninhabitable homes in 2017, Gafcon helped the local housing agency upgrade existing software so it could be used to not only set up processes for data collection, validation, reporting and to track progress, but also — importantly — to manage all activities and documentation for FEMA reimbursements.

Gafcon reviews systems, assets and technologies already in place and makes custom recommendations for space management and re-allocation, templates to conduct readiness checks, and a roadmap for installing or upgrading existing software systems that track these activities.

Gafcon then helps key departments work together toward return-to-office readiness and drive accountability for the entire team.

The property manager uses Gafcon-recommended standards of practices to manage facilities' condition assessments, create work orders, measure and track readiness activities in real time, and facilitate efficient collaboration between team members. Human resources departments use it to ensure that return-to-office conditions are established, know when and how key milestones are met, and communicate with employees.

In addition to the long-term tracking of government funds, which will be important when seeking reimbursements or loan forgiveness, Gafcon said the ongoing process is an important tool for helping property managers ensure a healthy workplace into the future. This also includes readiness should another COVID-19 pandemic — or natural disaster of any kind — shut down or require a renewed property closure.

Gafcon currently is spearheading the redevelopment of the Seaport Village property, among many other projects.

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