

Conduct of Virtual Hearings in Provident Fund (PF) quasi judicial cases by Assessing Officers through Video conferencing by use of secure IT Applications vide circular dated 01.10.2020 (Circular Attached).

The objects of the system of Virtual Hearing are as follows.

1. Enable Adjudicating officers to discharge the quasi-judicial duty to hear parties for adjudicating the issues under inquiry.
2. Enable Parties to make submission, present their case & file documents from remote locations of the convenience instead of physical appearance before the AO at EPFO Office.
3. Integration of Virtual hearings with e- Courts process on compliance E- Proceedings Portal.

Following instructions & guidelines are issued for in the said connections.

1. Assessing Officer should have a dedicated official email id (ending with @epfindia.gov.in) for communication with employers and other parties in r/o cases.
2. It should be ensured that Registered emailed & Mobile Numbers of employers is available in PF Form 5A or DSC/e-Sign or Establishment Master for direct communication. E-Communication shall be thru Employers Login.
3. ZO / RO to identify as select any secure VC Application / Utility for such virtual hearings.
4. Inquiry Proceedings should be compliance e- Proceedings Portal so that a computerized case diary and status of the case & orders passed are accessible to parties on the portal.
5. Sufficient evidence is available on record for assessment of dues.
6. Proceedings should be drawn on the spot in presence of the parties on the portal directly using the screen share mode of VC Application.
7. The daily order sheet with signature of the Assessing Officer is to be sent by email to the parties for resubmission by each parties through email in PDF format bearing signature, digital signature or e-sign of the employer / authorized representative who appeared the hearing.

8. Employer need to file documents/ papers /statements in support of his case from the registered email id to a dedicated email id of AO Office. The document in PDF Format bearing signature by the person authenticated shall be admitted. IF the employer insist on filing documents in hard copy, the same may be allowed which can be scanned & uploaded by SS / DA Filer on Portal.

MAHARASHTRA LABOUR WELFARE FUND (MLWF) Due date For JUNE'20 Period Further Extended to 30th Sep'2020.

MLWF has extended the due date for payment of dues for the period ending June'2020 further to 30th Sep'2020. A note displayed on their website is attached for your reference.

UPDATED LIST as on 02.11.2020 of ESI Implemented & Non Implemented States / UT's / Districts is attached for your reference.

Establishments having presence Pan India or in other states, should verify the said checklist and implement ESI if not implemented earlier.

Increase in Confinement Charges under Rule 56A of ESI Act from Rs. 5000 to Rs. 7500 as per attached circular dated 27.10.2020

Under **Rule 56A of ESI Act**, an insured woman or an insured person in respect of his wife is paid Rs. 7,500 per case on account of confinement expenses. The benefit is available in those cases where the confinement occurs at a place where necessary medical facilities under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme are not available.