

NATIONAL TEXTILE BARGAINING COUNCIL

Tel: (031) 307 1860 / 1925
Fax: (031) 305 8447
Email: secretary@ntbc.org.za

All correspondence to be addressed to:
P O BOX 18414
DALBRIDGE, 4014
www.ntbc.org.za

3rd FLOOR JAMES BOLTON HALL, 127 MAGWAZA MAPHALALA STREET (GALE STREET), UMBILO, 4001

Circular 14/2020 COVID-19

6 May 2020

**ATTENTION: ALL TEXTILE COMPANIES
ALL COVID-19 SUB-CLAUSE 2.3 COMPANIES**

COVID-19: UPDATE ON UIF PAYMENTS

Dear Employer,

We provide the following update of UIF worker monies received and disbursed, and wage schedules required for week ending 10 May 2020:

UIF worker funds received and disbursed

As per our previous circular, we confirm that 22 companies have been paid for the first period of lockdown, but that not all employees from some of those 22 companies were paid.

The non-payment for some employees was for reasons which the affected individual companies should help us resolve.

It is for a wide range of reasons, including incorrect information such as ID numbers, non-registration with the UIF, etc. The specifics of each case differs from company to company.

We advise that we had received additional funds which have not tied up with the Agreement. In most instances, the amounts have been less than we had been expecting.

This very serious problem has been brought to the attention of the UIF.

In some instances, we have also had difficulties reconciling the bank statement with the schedules that we had received from the UIF, on those rare occasions when UIF payments had actually been received.

A large part of the difficulty has included long waiting times to receive the accompanying schedules from the UIF, long after the actual funds reflects in the clothing industry bargaining council's dedicated bank account.

This has been the case specifically, with the last amount of R6.5m which the clothing bargaining council had received from the UIF, on 24 April 2020. In this specific case, the accompanying schedules was only received from the UIF on Saturday 2 May 2020, and then also only after many attempts and engagements about it with the UIF.

All of this takes a tremendous amount of time and effort to resolve.

We have, however, now been able to match the UIF schedule for the Textile factories with the bank statement.

To date we have received R6 171 008.17 of which R2 988 137.76 was for 22 textile companies and was paid out on 25 April 2020. We trust that these monies have been paid to qualifying employees already, as is required by law.

Those companies which have not yet paid the amounts over to the qualifying employees, are urged to do so as soon as possible.

We have received written confirmation from the Clothing Industry Bargaining Council that it has transferred an amount of R3 083 449.93 for 69 companies, to the NTBC's dedicated COVID-19 bank account, earlier today.

This follows a reconciliation which had been done, for an amount of R6.5m which the clothing bargaining council had received for the UIF, on 24 April 2020. The reconciliation shows that, of this amount of R6.5m, a total of R3 083 449.93 is due to textile employees.

We expect that this amount of R3 083 449.93 will reflect in the NTBC's dedicated COVID-19 bank account by tomorrow morning, 07 May 2020.

As soon as it reflects, we will arrange for it to be reconciled against our records, and transferred to the qualifying companies, to be paid out to their qualifying employees.

Companies are requested to pay these funds over the relevant employees, as soon as possible, and strictly according to the UIF schedules which will accompany the payment transfers.

By 07 May 2020, we would have paid out a total of R6 071 587.69 which includes the amount of R3 083 449.93 which we refer to above, and which we expect to pay out to qualifying companies on 07 May 2020.

Once that exercise is completed, it will mean that in total, we would have paid 91 textile companies.

We wish to emphasize that it is very important that once companies receive the UIF payments from our bargaining council, that the payments be matched against the UIF schedules that accompanies it and which will indicate which workers have been covered by this UIF payment.

The UIF is not paying for workers that are not registered with them, while some employees who have been registered may have been left off the list. Companies should assist to resolve such problems.

We specifically draw your attention to the fact that we have not yet received payments for all companies. There are still companies for which the UIF needs to make payments to the bargaining council for.

It is our priority to get the payments out as soon as we received it, and once this is done, we can start dealing with queries. We will accept the queries and log a consolidated list with the UIF.

In order to make it all clear, the following is an income and disbursement summary of all funds received and disbursed to date, by the NTBC:

Received:

R 3 087 558.24 on 25 April 2020
R 3 083 449.93 on 07 May 2020 (expected)

Disbursed to date:

R 2 988 137,76 on 25 April 2020
R 3 083 449.93 on 07 May 2020 (expected)

Balance:

R 99 420.48 (to be returned to the clothing council).

The R99 420.48, which needs to be returned to the clothing bargaining council, has been paid to the NTBC on the assumption that it was textile companies.

However, it is not, which became clear after we had completed the internal NTBC reconciliation process.

All disbursements have been done only against the schedules received from the UIF, and only for those companies for which funds had been received from the UIF.

New wage schedule submission requirements for week ending 10 May 2020

We request that all companies now prepare and lodge week ending 10 May 2020 wage schedules with the bargaining council for submission to the UIF as is required to progress our further UIF claims.

We fully understand that this is now becoming a frustrating process, but we unfortunately have no option but to proceed with it.

Please be reminded that your submission on the template previously provided to you must in addition include should include the following information:

- **week ending 10 May 2020 wage schedules.**
- **the employees' banking details.**
- **employees ID numbers, and**
- **the company's registered UIF number.**

Wage schedules must please be submitted to the bargaining council by 14h00 on Thursday, 7 May 2020. It should all be electronically submitted in the prescribed Excel format.

For NTBC registered textile industry employees, wage schedules are to be submitted to the following email address:

covid19fund@ntbc.org.za

Those companies which have been admitted to the UIF transmission services of the textile bargaining council as per the provisions of sub-clause 2.3 of our COVID-19 Lockdown Collective Agreement are pleased requested to submit their wage schedules to covid19fund@ntbc.org.za

Conclusion

We continue to experience serious delays with the receipt of funds from the UIF. The reasons are unclear, as we have complied with all the submission requirements.

These concerns have now been escalated to a daily morning meeting with the UIF leadership and the Minister of Employment & Labour, and which meeting the General Secretary of SACTWU now chairs.

The SACTWU General Secretary, Andre Kriel, has this evening reported to us that, in this morning's meeting where he had raised our concerns about the delays, the Minister had called for a list of priority issues that the UIF staff need to investigate and address, and to report back on in tomorrow morning's meeting.

The SACTWU General Secretary has advised us that he had accordingly made the following written submission:

“When will clothing and textile workers be fully paid the balance of their arrear UIF COVID-19 TERS claims? What is the problem why their arrear payments are not being processed?”

We apologise to employers and workers for the delays and consequential difficulties, but it is unfortunately beyond our control.

We will keep you updated as best we can, as developments unfold.

Yours faithfully
For the National Textile Bargaining Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alvan Pillay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Secretary
Alvan Pillay

(Sent Electronically)