

# **The Business Case of the WELL Health-Safety Rating**



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic and social disruption worldwide resulting to issues on food security, public health, and workplace safety. Transmission of COVID-19 largely occurs in indoor and enclosed environments, where people spend approximately 90% of their time. As people return to the new normal, health and safety poses a new challenge in re-entering places where we live, work, learn, play, eat, and shop.

To answer to this challenge, the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI), together with experts and industry leaders, has designed and developed an evidence-based, third-party verified rating focused on facilities operations and management across multiple building types and spaces – the WELL Health-Safety Rating. The WELL Health-Safety Rating is for new and existing building and facility types which focuses on operational policies, maintenance protocols, stakeholder engagement and emergency plans. It is an efficient and effective opportunity to guide, validate, recognize, and scale the efforts of owners and managers on critical health and safety issues. Ultimately, it addresses the health, safety, and well-being of the business' most valuable asset – its people.

The WELL Health-Safety Rating is composed of 22 strategies across the following core areas: Cleaning and Sanitization Procedures, Emergency Preparedness Programs, Health Service Resources, Air and Water Quality Management, and Stakeholder Engagement and Communication. To achieve the WELL Health-Safety Rating, the project must comply to at least 15 strategies which they may choose. The selection of strategies has been based on the existing features of the WELL Building Standard, IWBI's Task Force on COVID-19, guidance by the World Health Organization, U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recognized standard-making bodies such as ASTM International and ASHRAE, and leading academic research and institutions.

The first step is to enroll to the WELL Health-Safety Rating. For new projects, this can be a steppingstone in achieving a WELL Certification in the future. Price differs based on how many locations are to be enrolled. Prices to be mentioned includes the enrollment as well as the review fees. For single locations, it starts at \$4,200. Multiple locations start at \$2,500 to \$17 per location, depending on the size of enrollment. Projects that choose to enroll multiple location of the same type, with a single owner and payer, are eligible for the reduced price per location. On the other hand, high-volume, multi-use locations are ideal for facilities that accommodate more than 10,000 people during typical use and operation and have more than four space types, such as major resorts, heavily trafficked airports and large event venues. Enrollment for a single location is \$12,600 but bulk pricing is available. As an effort to be accessible to all, projects in emerging markets and certain sectors including small businesses save 35% on the WELL Health-Safety Rating. For existing WELL projects, they can enroll to the WELL Health-Safety Rating at a reduced cost or for free. If the WELL Health-Safety Rating is opt-in with simultaneous documentation submission, it becomes complimentary. On the other hand, if it would have separate documentation submission, reduced rate would be \$2,500.



All enrollments are provided access to a secure, cloud-based management tool. This digital platform enables the project to elevate project management through centralized reporting and streamlined documentation. Curated WELL trainings and resources are also available for the project team's use. To ensure that the operational policies, maintenance protocols, stakeholder engagement and emergency plans are still relevant and up to date, the WELL Health-Safety Rating needs to be renewed annually.

**The WELL Health-Safety Rating guarantees that the strategies and measures to go back to the office safely is effective.**

The WELL Health-Safety Rating guarantees that the strategies and measures to go back to the office safely is effective. It ensures that the space is cleaned and sanitized by having handwashing policies, reducing surface contact, improving cleaning practices and cleaning products, and reducing respiratory particle exposure policy. It also promotes emergency and resilience plans to ensure projects are equipped to immediately confront and recover from an emergency or crisis. It covers business continuity plan, emergency preparedness plan, plan for healthy re-entry, and establish entry requirements such as vaccination cards or a negative test result and face mask worn indoors. Lastly, it encourages ways to foster individual actions that support health and safety for all. This includes provision of sick leave, health benefits, support mental health recovery, promote vaccines, and promote a smoke-free environment.

In this time of the pandemic, the saying "Health is wealth" has never been truer. To continue the sustainability of our businesses, we must act in creating a healthy and safe space for our stakeholders and establishing emergency and resilience policies for our business. The WELL Health-Safety Rating seal is a visual indication that the space has the most relevant operational policies, maintenance protocols, stakeholder engagement and emergency plans in place. In the Philippines, there are 36 projects that are health-safety rated and/or registered to the WELL Health-Safety Rating. These projects come from all over the country from Zuellig Building in Makati, Alliance Global Tower in BGC, One West Aeropark in Pampanga, to Cebu Skyrise in Cebu. Arcadis Philippines, among these front runners, has also registered its offices to be health-safety rated. Let's do our part in leading our community to a better, safer, and healthier future.



## About Arcadis

About Arcadis Arcadis is the leading global Design & Consultancy firm for natural and built assets. Applying our deep market sector insights and collective design, consultancy, engineering, project and management services we work in partnership with our clients to deliver exceptional and sustainable outcomes throughout the lifecycle of their natural and built assets. We are 29,000 people, active in over 70 countries that generate €3.4 billion in revenues. We support UN-Habitat with knowledge and expertise to improve the quality of life in rapidly growing cities around the world.

[www.arcadis.com](http://www.arcadis.com)

## Contact us



**Carla Victoria Cruz**

Director  
Environmental Sustainability

E [carla.cruz@arcadis.com](mailto:carla.cruz@arcadis.com)



**Katherine Ann Resurreccion**

Associate Director  
Environmental Sustainability

E [katherineann.resurreccion@arcadis.com](mailto:katherineann.resurreccion@arcadis.com)



**Corinne Malolos**

Senior Environmental  
Sustainability Consultant

E [corinne.malolos@arcadis.com](mailto:corinne.malolos@arcadis.com)

**Arcadis Philippines Inc.**

12th Floor Quadrants B&C, 8 Rockwell Hidalgo Drive,  
Rockwell Center, Bgy. Poblacion,  
Makati City 1210 Philippines

T [+632 79082888](tel:+63279082888)

**Arcadis.** Improving quality of life

Connect with us

