The Namibian labour legislation does not officially make provision for so-called “Builders’ Holidays”. However, the Labour Act, 2007 (Act No.11 of 2007) does make provision in Chapter 3, Part D, Clause 23 that the employer determines the date when leave is granted. The annual recess over the Christmas / New Year period is regarded as a custom / tradition in the construction industry. The following examples shown below serve as a GUIDELINE for granting employees’ annual leave during the recess period over Christmas / New Year.

1. In terms of the provisions of Chapter 3, Part C, Clause 22 of the Labour Act, 2007, all public holidays falling on a day that would otherwise be an ordinary working day for the employees concerned are deemed paid public holidays. Employees shall not be required to work on such a day, but shall receive normal remuneration for the day, nonetheless. Employees who do work are entitled to double remuneration for the actual hours worked on such public holiday.

2. In terms of Chapter 3, Part D, Clause 23 of the Act an employee shall be granted at least 4 (four) consecutive weeks’ leave of absence on full remuneration in respect of each period of 12 consecutive months of employment (this translates into 20 working days annual leave for an employee working a 5-day week and 24 working days annual leave for an employee working a 6-day week). The annual leave of employees shall, for each public holiday which falls on a day that would otherwise have been an ordinary working day for such employees and falls within the leave period, be extended by one working day with full remuneration.

3. Public holidays in the 2012 / 2013 festive season are:

- **Monday, 10 December 2012** (International Human Rights Day)
- **Tuesday, 25 December 2012** (Christmas Day)
- **Wednesday, 26 December 2012** (Family Day)
- **Tuesday, 1 January 2013** (New Year’s Day)

It follows by illustration that:

**CLOSING** (last day of work) on **07 December 2012** (5-day week) or on **08 December 2012** (6-day week)
**OPEN** (first day of work) on **07 January 2013**, employees are entitled to the following leave pay:

- **5-DAY WEEK**: 16 working days + 4 days (public holidays)  \( \Rightarrow 20 \text{ days leave pay} \)
- **6-DAY WEEK**: 20 working days + 4 days (public holidays)  \( \Rightarrow 24 \text{ days leave pay} \)

OR

**CLOSING** (last day of work) on **14 December 2012** (5-day week) or on **15 December 2012** (6-day week)
**OPEN** (first day of work), on **14 January 2013** employees are entitled to the following leave pay:
5-DAY WEEK: 17 working days + 3 days (public holidays)  20 days leave pay

6-DAY WEEK: 21 working days + 3 days (public holidays)  24 days leave pay

NOTES:

- Only the working days illustrated in both examples above may be deducted from the employee’s accrued annual leave and not the listed extra/additional days (public holidays).
- Any leave days of the employee’s accrued annual leave not used for the recess period as shown above may be used as casual leave days in the next year.
- In terms of Government Gazette No. 4970 of 19 June 2012 (CIF / MANWU agreement on employment conditions in the construction industry) a service allowance equal to 120 hours of an employee’s wage calculated pro-rata to the portion of the year that the employee was in service is payable as part of the December remuneration, except in case of a fair dismissal.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS DURING THE 2012 / 2013 RECESS:  
CALCULATION OF ANNUAL LEAVE / LEAVE PAY

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**5-DAY WEEK:** 16 working days + 4 days (public holidays) ⇒ 20 days leave pay

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OR

**CLOSING** (last day of work) on 14 December 2012 (5-day week) or on 15 December 2012 (6-day week) **OPEN** (first day of work), on 14 January 2013 employees are entitled to the following leave pay:
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6-DAY WEEK: 21 working days + 3 days (public holidays) ☞ 24 days leave pay

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