

26 March 2020

Briefing Note

CECA Member Briefing:

Covid-19: CECA update

Introduction

This short briefing has been prepared on behalf of the UK construction sector to brief companies and individuals on the ongoing repercussions of the Covid-19 coronavirus for our sector. This briefing will be delivered daily by CECA over the coming weeks – if you would like further information, or to input your views, contact CECA chief executive Alasdair Reisner on 07977151912 or e-mail alasdairreisner@ceca.co.uk.

[Support the fight against Coronavirus](#)

The UK Government has asked industry to offer support to those fighting coronavirus. If your business can offer support in any of the following circumstances:

- Protective equipment for healthcare workers, such as masks, gowns, and sanitiser;
- Hotel rooms;
- Transport and logistics, for moving goods or people;
- Manufacturing equipment;
- Warehouse or office space, for medical use or storage;
- Expert advice or consultancy on IT, manufacturing, construction, project management, procurement, or engineering;
- Social care or childcare;
- Community support.

Please use [this link](#) to offer your help.

[Further Advice On Safe Working](#)

The Government has provided further guidance on safe working and social distancing. The updated guidance can be found [here](#). As a reminder, industry advice on site operating procedures can be found [here](#). Sites that cannot operate in line with this guidance must not stay open.

[Business Support FAQs](#)

The UK Government Business Support website has been updated to provide answers to some FAQs on issues related to Covid-19 support for companies - click [here](#) to access it.

[Navigating COVID-19 Webinars](#)

The Association for Consultancy and Engineering have launched a new webinar series to help the industry through the coronavirus crisis. Each episode is hosted by chief executive Hannah Vickers who will be joined by a number of industry, political and business experts. Navigating COVID-19 is free to attend and recordings will be made available after the initial broadcast on the ACE website. Topics covered include finance, procurement, HR and communications. Find out more on [ACE's website](#) or sign-up now to the webinars through the links below:

- [Emergency Response – Thursday 26 March 2020, 11.00am to 12.00pm.](#)
- [Support for your SME – Tuesday 31 March 2020, 1.30pm to 2.20pm.](#)
- [Procurement and Government contracts – Thursday 02 April 2020, 12.00pm to 1.00pm.](#)

- People in a pandemic – Tuesday 7 April 2020, 12.00pm to 1.00pm.
- Communicating in a crisis – Thursday 9 April 2020, 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

The Building and Engineering Services Association is also running a daily webinar for industry on Covid-19 issues. Details are available [here](#).

Vehicle owners to be granted MOT exemption in battle against coronavirus

Vehicle owners will be granted a 6-month exemption from MOT testing, enabling them to continue to travel to work where this absolutely cannot be done from home, or shop for necessities. All cars, vans and motorcycles which usually would require an MOT test will be exempted from needing a test from 30 March 2020. Vehicles must be kept in a roadworthy condition, and garages will remain open for essential repair work. Drivers can be prosecuted if driving unsafe vehicles. For more information click [here](#).

Filing accounts

Companies House have announced that businesses will be given an additional 3 months to file accounts to help companies avoid penalties as they deal with the impacts of COVID-19. Full guidance on applying for an extension can be found [here](#).

Gender Pay Reporting

Enforcement of the gender pay gap reporting deadlines are [suspended for this reporting year](#) (2019/20) due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The decision means there will be no expectation on employers to report their data.

CSCS

Due to the growing concerns surrounding the Coronavirus CSCS are experiencing reduced staffing levels at their contact centre. CSCS have taken the decision to temporarily suspended the telephone service until further notice. Until the service re-opens CSCS are only able to accept applications via the online service. If your need to get in touch with the CSCS team about an application then it would be best if they used the web chat service or visit the "contact us" web page and complete the online form. The most recent updates from CSCS on coronavirus are available [here](#).

CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Read CECA's Employment Briefing on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme [here](#). Please note this briefing will be updated as further information becomes available.

CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus

Read CECA's Employment Briefing on the impacts of Covid-19 [here](#).

CECA Training & Development Update

Read CECA's Training & Development Update in reference to coronavirus [here](#).

Beale & Co Webinar

Beale & Co are holding a webinar on 'COVID-19: Mitigating Impacts on Construction Projects' on Monday 30 March 2020, 12.30pm-1.30pm. Click [here](#) to register. Please note places are limited so register your interest early.

Your feedback is vital – [new survey 23 March](#)

The construction industry's federations are in regular dialogue with representatives from the UK Government to discuss the impact of Covid-19. To support this work we need feedback from businesses as to how they are affected by the pandemic. Please take 5 minutes to fill in this survey to ensure that this work is supported by the most up-to-date feedback from industry. The new survey can be found [here](#).