

15 April 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.

[Site Operating Procedures – updated 15 April 2020](#)

The Public Health England (PHE) guidance on social distancing in the workplace during coronavirus (COVID-19), which includes sections on [construction](#), [tradespeople and working in people's homes](#), and the use of private vehicles and car-pooling for travelling to work, have been incorporated into what is now industry-recognised guidance.

The key changes in version 3 include:

- Confirmation that the HSE is the enforcing authority for PHE guidelines
- The need for sites to monitor the implementation of the procedures
- Further details on who should not travel to work
- Guidance for those who have no option but to share transport to work
- Information on the hierarchy of controls which should be implemented to reduce the risk of transmission where social distancing of 2 metres cannot be achieved
- Information on first aid and emergency service response.

The revised Site Operating Procedures can be found on the Construction Leadership Council's website [here](#).

CECA Workload Trends Survey 2020 Q1

CECA's Workload Trends Survey for 2020 Q1 is now live. The deadline for the survey is the close of business on 4 May 2020 - please complete it so we can gather the most accurate picture of the current state of our industry and feed back to Government and other stakeholders. The survey is available [here](#).

RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) requirements and Covid-19

CECA requested clarification from the HSE in regards to RIDDOR. The response from the HSE was based on a particular scenario, therefore the answer is quite specific – however, it should provide a further level of detail that you don't perhaps have at present.

CECA Example – A Site worker experiences symptoms whilst on site. They then leave site, self-isolates and it is then confirmed they have Covid-19. Is the employer (contractor) duty bound to report both a Dangerous occurrence due to the worker being infectious whilst on site therefore putting other site workers (unknowingly) at risk, AND a (Reporting) Case of disease?

HSE Response: Dangerous Occurrence – The guidance states "If something happens at work which results in (or could result in) the release or escape of coronavirus you must report this as a dangerous occurrence. An example of a dangerous occurrence would be a lab worker accidentally smashing a glass vial containing coronavirus, leading to people being exposed."

HSE advise that this is accident or incident specific and applies to a very narrow range of circumstances that are unlikely to occur on construction sites.

HSE Response: Reporting a Disease – The guidance states "If there is reasonable evidence that someone diagnosed with COVID-19 was likely exposed because of their work. An example of a work-related exposure to coronavirus would be a health care professional who is diagnosed with COVID-19 after treating patients with COVID-19."

HSE advise that In the given example, it would therefore not be reportable when taking into account the above. CECA members are strongly advised to undertake risk assessments in relation to work undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. If you would like to discuss further, contact CECA National Civil Engineering Director Peter Crosland - petercrosland@ceca.co.uk.

CLC Guidance on Contractual Issues Caused by Coronavirus - Updated 8 April 2020

Read the CLC's updated guidance on contractual issues caused by Covid-19 [here](#).

Recovery survey

We want to canvass the opinion of industry on what you feel the biggest issues will be following the end of the Coronavirus lockdown. Once the economy is turned back on again, some people fear that there may be a number of issues, that delay or at least hamper a quick return to productivity. Please click on [this link](#) to the survey. It will only take c. 2 mins to complete.

Navigating COVID-19: Bank loans and finance

The first episode in the second season of Navigating Covid-19 webinars from ACE will take place at 12.00pm tomorrow (Thursday 16 April 2020). In this free episode they will explore the different finance options that have recently been made available to businesses by the Government. An expert (tbc) will join ACE chief executive Hannah Vickers. Sign up [here](#). You can watch recordings of ACE's previous Covid-19-related webinars [here](#).

Coronavirus business support hub

A new UK Government [Coronavirus Business Support Hub](#) is now available bringing together key information for businesses including on funding and support, business closures, your responsibilities as an employer and managing your business during coronavirus. The hub also includes information for self-employed people and sole traders.

CITB Leadership and Management Funding

The new Leadership and Management Development Fund launched yesterday will ensure that construction businesses of all sizes can improve their leadership and management skills. Micro, small and medium-sized businesses can do so via the [CITB Skills and Training Fund](#), which was recently refreshed and expanded to support sustainability and skill retention.

Larger CITB registered businesses - those with over 250 employees - can now apply via the LMDF. Companies can apply from £5k up to £100k, with funding available in stages for a year though CITB will review the COVID-19 situation and be flexible about start dates. Fund guidelines outline the learning outcomes permitted and the deadline for applications is 12 June - please visit [this page](#) to apply.

Business Support - Case Studies

The Government are keen to gather case studies that demonstrate firms that are accessing the Business Interruption Loan Scheme and utilising the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. If you would like to provide such a case study, or to discuss further, please e-mail marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk.

Case Studies

The Construction Industry Coronavirus Taskforce is seeking to build a resource of case studies that showcase good industry practice in reference to Covid-19. If you would like to contribute to this work or to discuss further, contact marieclaudhemming@ceca.co.uk.

Mental health support

Industry mental health charity Mates in Mind is working in partnership with CECA to deliver free mental wellbeing workshops. These workshops are aimed at employees; and managers (including supervisors). The live online workshops will take place on 15,16, and 21 April, and will be delivered by trained mental health practitioners. Delegates will be able to see and interact with the tutor and with each other:

Mental Wellbeing Workshop for Employees (45 minutes)

- Understand how the current environment impacts our mental health and wellbeing
- Identify ways in which to spot issues in ourselves and our colleagues
- Explore how to look out for your own wellbeing as well as our co-workers
- Understand how to support someone in crisis and have a better understanding of relevant professional support services available to us.

Mental Wellbeing Workshop for Managers (60 minutes)

- Identify the pressures facing their teams during the current climate and identify how they can affect their mental health
- Recognise how managers can spot the signs and issues and know what to say and do
- Identify how to help someone in crisis
- Provide details of organisations and support services that can provide help, information and advice
- Provide some guidance on what managers / supervisors can do to look after their own mental health

Anticipating level of interest, places are initially limited to 2 delegates per organisation. We have confirmed that furloughed employees are allowed to take part in this training without affecting their furloughed status. Book your place [here](#).

CECA Training & Development Update - 9 April 2020

Read CECA's latest Training & Development Update in reference to Covid-19 [here](#).

Training & Development E-Resources

Click [here](#) for a list of CITB-supported training & development e-resources.

CECA Employment Briefing - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Updated 31 March)

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](#).

[New CECA Guidance \(30 March\) - Temporary Suspension of Sites](#)

CECA has published guidance on the temporary suspension of sites. Read it [here](#).