

2 November 2020

Briefing Note

CECA Member Briefing: Covid-19: CECA update

[New COVID-19 Lockdown In England](#)

The Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday (31 October), announcing a national lockdown in England from Thursday 5 November, is a reminder of the very serious situation in which the country finds itself and of the massive impact that this will have on people and the economy. Legislation is widely expected to be passed in Parliament this week and that these new rules will come into force as planned.

The UK Government has explicitly said that construction and manufacturing should continue. The latest Government guidance ([click here](#)) has reiterated this, and that workers in these industries should continue to travel to work and attend their workplace, including where this involves working in other people's homes.

We all understand the need to keep providing and maintaining the houses, hospitals, electricity, water and all the other vital infrastructure that people depend on, and we all understand the need to keep construction workers employed and keeping the economy going, for now and for the future recovery.

To ensure the construction industry operates safely the Construction Leadership Council has developed a range of guidance relating to social distancing, use of PPE and face coverings, the safe operation of site canteens, the safe operation of builders merchants, the use of public and private transport to work, and the use of temporary accommodation for workers, amongst other important matters, all of which are covered in the following and are available on the CLC website:-

- CLC Site Operating Procedures (version 6 - published 20 October 2020) - [click here](#).
- BMF Branch Operating Guidelines - [click here](#).
- FMB guidance for installers working indoors - [click here](#).
- TrustMark Work Safe, Safe Work home maintenance guidance - [click here](#).
- HBF Charter for Safe Working Practice - [click here](#).

The CLC has also demonstrated that the entire industry depends on the flow of money and materials, and that it is essential that product manufacturers, builders merchants and distributors keep operating so that we have the materials to build and repair our homes, hospitals and vital infrastructure.

Hotels can remain open to provide accommodation for workers. CECA is currently reviewing the implications for construction workers and please let us know if you have difficulty finding accommodation for workers working away from home.

[Furlough Scheme Extended](#)

The Prime Minister also announced that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be extended for one month, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500. Under the extended scheme, employers will only have to pay National Insurance and pension contributions, with the Government paying the full 80% of wages, and details of how to claim will be available shortly. The Job Support Scheme, which was due to start on 1 November, has been postponed until the Job Retention Scheme ends.

Self-Employed Income Support Scheme

The grant available under the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme from 1 November 2020 until 31 January 2021 has already been doubled to 40% of average monthly trading profits, capped at £3,750. The level of the second grant covering 1 February until 30 April 2021 will be confirmed in due course.

Devolved Nations

Scotland now has five COVID protection levels in place, ranging from 'Level 0 - Nearly Normal' to 'Level 4 - Lockdown.' You can check the level for an area by entering the postcode [here](#). The Scottish Government has published [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Scotland's Strategic Framework](#) which came into force today (2 November).

Wales is under its own 'firebreak' lockdown until Monday 9 November 2020 at 00:01am. The Welsh Government has said that occupations such as construction and manufacturing can continue, subject to compliance with other rules such as employers ensuring that all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate the spread of coronavirus.

Northern Ireland has its own restrictions in place until Friday 13 November.