



COVID-19 Bulletin #1

24 March 2020



Construction Equipment Association

Who?	What?	Where?
Sector Specific News		
Construction Leadership Council	Keeping construction sites open	click for details
Construction Leadership Council	Safe job site operating procedures	click for details
Construction News	COVID-19 construction related news. Lists of contractors which are closing job sites.	click for details
COVID-19 IMPORTANT Government Information for Business		click for details and also here
Government Healthcare Information for Business	Information on healthcare advice for employers and support for businesses.	click for details
COVID-19 MAIN SITE FOR BUSINESS	A package of temporary measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19.	click for details
Government Assistance EMPLOYMENT		
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	Salary for those employees that would otherwise have been laid off during this crisis. HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month.	click for details

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Statutory Sick Pay relief package for SMEs	<p>Legislation to allow small-and medium-sized businesses (less than 250 employees at 28 February 2020) and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19.</p> <p>This refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19</p>	click for details
The HMRC Time To Pay Scheme	All businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC's Time To Pay service. You are eligible if your business pays tax to the UK government or has outstanding tax liabilities.	How to access the scheme If you have missed a tax payment or you might miss your next payment due to COVID-19, please call HMRC's dedicated helpline: 0800 0159 559.
ACAS	Advice for employers and employees from ACAS	https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus
Government Assistance FINANCIAL		
Deferring VAT and Income Tax payments	<p>Government will support businesses by deferring Valued Added Tax (VAT) payments for 3 months. If you're self-employed, Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system will be deferred to January 2021.</p> <p>For VAT, the deferral will apply from 20 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>Eligibility - All UK businesses are eligible.</p>	An automatic offer with no applications required. Businesses will not need to make a VAT payment during this period. Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020 to 2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period. VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal.
Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank	<p>A new temporary Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, delivered by the British Business Bank, will launch imminently to support primarily small and medium-sized businesses to access bank lending and overdrafts.</p> <p>The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs.</p> <p>The government will not charge businesses or banks for this guarantee, and the Scheme will support loans of up to £5 million in value. You are eligible for the scheme if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> your business is UK based, with turnover of no more than £45 million per year your business meets the other British Business Bank eligibility criteria. 	The scheme is now open for applications. To apply, you should talk to your bank or one of the 40 accredited finance providers (not the British Business Bank) as soon as possible, to discuss your business plan. You can find out the latest on the best ways to contact them via their websites. All major banks are offering this scheme. If you have an existing loan with monthly repayments you may want to ask for a repayment holiday to help with cash flow. The full rules of the scheme and the list of accredited lenders are available on the British Business Bank website .
Small business grant funding of £10,000	Small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) and Rural Rates Relief.	If eligible, you will be contacted by your Local Authority.

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<p>Support for businesses that pay little or no business rates</p>	<p>The government will provide additional Small Business Grant Scheme funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBBR), rural rate relief (RRR) and tapered relief.</p> <p>This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs. You are eligible if: your business is based in England you are a small business and already receive SBBR and/or RRR you are a business that occupies property</p>	<p>You do not need to do anything. Your local authority will write to you if you are eligible for this grant.</p> <p>Any enquiries on eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs and grants should be directed to the relevant local authority. Find your local authority.</p>
<p>Support for larger firms through the COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility</p>	<p>The Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF, the Facility) will provide funding to businesses by purchasing commercial paper of up to one-year maturity, issued by firms making a material contribution to the UK economy. It will help businesses across a range of sectors to pay wages and suppliers, even while experiencing severe disruption to cashflows.</p> <p>The facility will offer financing on terms comparable to those prevailing in markets in the period before the COVID-19 economic shock, and will be open to firms that can demonstrate they were in sound financial health prior to the shock. The scheme will operate for as long as steps are needed to relieve cash flow pressures on firms that make a material contribution to the UK economy. The Bank will implement the facility on behalf of HM Treasury.</p>	<p>The scheme will be available early in week beginning 23 March 2020. More information is available from the Bank of England.</p>
<p>Banking Loans</p>	<p>A number of private lenders are making additional loan funding available for SMEs impacted by COVID-19.</p>	<p>Including £2 billion from Lloyds Banking Group, £5 billion from NatWest and £7 billion from Barclays</p>
<p>Manufacturing</p>		
<p>Can your company help? CEN & CENELEC make European standards available to for medical devices</p>	<p>In response to the coronavirus outbreak, CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, and CENELEC, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization, agreed to make freely available a series of European standards (ENs) for medical devices and personal protective equipment used in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The 11 standards developed by CEN and potentially 3 additional ones developed jointly with ISO made available cover common filtering masks, medical gloves and protective clothing. The standards are available for free download from the websites of CEN national members.</p>	<p>click for details</p>
<p>Call for businesses to make ventilators</p>	<p>The government is looking for businesses to support in the production and supply of ventilators and ventilator components.</p>	<p>click for details</p>

Who?	What?	Where?
Personal Covid-19 Information		
Government Advice for Individuals	How to protect yourself and others.	https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus
Banking Payments	Your bank or mortgage lender should be making provisions for late or deferred mortgage payments, extended credit or other financial assistance during the COVID-19 period.	Check with your bank.
IMPORTANT	A number of organisations have mushroomed over the weekend charging fees to apply for HMG grants on behalf of business. <u>You do not need to use a third party to get a grant, loan, business rate rebate etc.</u>	

Information as at 12:00, 24/03/2020. Note: whilst every care is taken to ensure information is correct, the CEA cannot and will not be held responsible for any errors, omissions and accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage arising. The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the CEA.

CEA members are welcome to contact the CEA for further information...

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