

COVID-19 Update for UK Employees | 16/11/2020

Secretary of State for BEIS Pays Tribute to Construction Industry

Alok Sharma, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, has released a letter thanking the construction industry for their ongoing hard work throughout the continuing pandemic, including during the second lockdown in England.

In his letter, Sharma highlights that the construction sector is a key part of the UK economy. He states: "I want to pay tribute to you and express my admiration for all the work you are doing. Whether working on large or small construction sites, in peoples' homes across the country, in builders' merchants, designing and project managing schemes or producing construction and mineral products, you are making an invaluable contribution in supporting the economy.

"Since the outset of the pandemic in March, you have performed a vital role. In the past six months we have seen the industry build the Nightingale Hospitals, accelerate the delivery of infrastructure projects, support vital public services and help the country adapt buildings to become Covid-Secure.


"...Thank you again to everyone operating in the UK construction sector. You are making a hugely valued and critical contribution to our country."

This letter is a welcome recognition that our work is vital to the country; both to the economy and its ability to fight the virus. It is great to see the government acknowledge our commitment to operating a safe and essential industry.

We would like to echo Sharma's thanks to all those working for the UK business; you are all playing a vital role and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

We know it has been a challenging time for everyone, particularly as lockdown restrictions continue and we approach a festive period that is likely to be very different to normal. However, we recognise and value your dedication to supporting our customers while following the Covid protocols and ensuring the safety of colleagues and communities.

A full copy of the letter can be found attached – please do share this with your colleagues and families; you should feel proud of all you have achieved despite the considerable challenges this year has presented.


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To everyone working in the construction sector

On 31 October, the Prime Minister announced further measures in England to curb the spread of Coronavirus. From 5 November, people may only leave home for specific reasons, including for work, if you cannot work from home. The Prime Minister explained that workplaces should stay open where people cannot work from home, for example in the construction or manufacturing sectors.

The construction sector, which is a key part of our economy, remains open. Where it is essential to travel to your place of work to do your job, you should continue to do so. Building merchants and hardware stores will be able to stay open to support this as normal or through click-and-collect services.

The Government continues to update our safe working guidance. Updated guidance for England for working from your place of work from 5 November is available on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

During this difficult Autumn, I want to pay tribute to you and express my admiration for all the work you are doing. Whether working on large or small construction sites, in peoples' homes across the country, in builders' merchants, designing and project managing schemes or producing construction and mineral products, you are making an invaluable contribution in supporting the economy.

Since the outset of the pandemic in March, you have performed a vital role. In the past six months we have seen the industry build the Nightingale Hospitals, accelerate the delivery of infrastructure projects, support vital public services and help the country adapt buildings to become Covid-Secure. Whilst doing this, the industry has itself had to innovate and adapt, changing the way it operates on sites, finding more efficient ways of delivering projects, and collaborating effectively throughout the supply chain.

My Department and I are in regular contact with industry leaders about the risks, issues and challenges you face.

Thank you again to everyone operating in the UK construction sector. You are making a hugely valued and critical contribution to our country.

Yours sincerely,


THE RT HON ALOK SHARMA MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

THANK YOU

Employee Assistance Programme

Free, confidential support and counselling available for all employees

If you're worried about a work, family or personal issue then the Employee Assistance Programme can help, 24/7.

Support with everything from consumer rights to bereavement, depression & anxiety to childcare.

Visit www.lifestyle-support.co.uk (username: cemex / password: cemex) or call 0808 1682143

