



COVID-19 update for STA members

03 April 2020

The STA notes that the current government guidance in the UK is that people should stay at home and only leave the house for very limited purposes. Their clear message has been 'Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives'. However, travelling for work purposes is not prohibited but it is only allowed where working from home is not an option and, even then, the time spent away from home should be minimised and social distancing instructions must be followed.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to develop, the STA is working closely with UK regulators and other stakeholders on how to address this unprecedented situation. The STA has been engaged in discussions with regulators with regard to the operation and maintenance of CEMS, undertaking periodic measurements and the MCERTS scheme in general. We will continue these discussions throughout the coming days and weeks.

Site work is an integral part of most of our members' businesses, be they test houses, equipment suppliers or process operators. The following guidance applies to all activities by STA members which would normally require site work (including travelling to, and working on, customers' sites). It is vital that appropriate measures are implemented to safeguard the health and safety of all personnel.

We encourage all our members to follow guidance from their governments, to minimise travel and help slow the spread of the virus. Where site work cannot be postponed, the risk assessment should take into account the impact of COVID-19 on working practices and identify the measures required to address these issues. It should ensure compliance with all relevant guidance.

There are new areas of challenge facing us all and these should be included in the risk assessment. For example, with regards to the COVID-19, the risk assessment should also cover (but not be limited to) travel to and from site, carrying out social distancing when working on-site (including site procedures for gaining access to site through gate-houses, site inductions, permits to work etc); use of on-site facilities such as changing rooms, toilets and other common areas. Additional measures affecting emergency planning, such as rescue plans, evacuation procedures (eg social distancing at muster points etc) should



advancing the science and
practice of emission monitoring

be considered. The use of additional PPE and more rigorous personal hygiene measures might also be appropriate.

As ever, it is important that STA members involve other relevant parties fully in the risk assessment process whenever necessary.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that work carried out in our industry is done safely and to minimise the risk of infection. If any part of the risk assessment cannot be adhered to, site work should not be carried out and further advice should be sought from relevant parties such as regulators or process operators.

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact the STA at andycurtis@s-t-a.org or by telephone 01462 414255.

The current UK government advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

STA members are reminded that government advice might change and you are encouraged to check it regularly.