



MPE – Covid-19 update

During the Covid-19 pandemic, MPE strictly followed all UK Government and Public Health England (PHE) advice and guidelines and remained open, with all functions, including manufacturing, operational.

In late March, MPE received correspondence including letters from the Under Secretary of Defence at the Pentagon in the USA and Sir Stephen Lovegrove, KCB, Permanent Secretary to the UK MoD, the latter identifying MPE as a critical supplier to the national defence supply chain. MPE's staff were therefore considered as key workers, under the Public Safety and National Security section of the UK Government's Key Workers list.

In adhering to the guidelines published by the UK Government, MPE first conducted a thorough and robust risk assessment of all its operations and its entire facility. Following this, MPE implemented a thorough risk mitigation exercise and additional Covid-19 related actions. These actions included:



- Ceasing all travel to any sites other than MPE, both in the UK and overseas.
- Ceasing to allow any visitors to its facility except for those essential to ongoing operations.
- Ensuring that individuals worked from home where possible.
- Cancelling all but essential internal meetings and limiting any essential meetings to four people.
- All employees briefed regard the social distancing advised by UK Government and PHE.
- All employees' workstations assessed to ensure they were two metres apart from one another.
- Additional break and lunch times instigated to reduce employee numbers within MPE's canteen.
- Distancing indicators marked on floors to ensure two-metre social distancing was maintained.
- Staggered clock-on / clock-off times introduced to prevent overcrowding in this area.
- Additional soap and hand sanitiser placed in all washrooms, and sanitiser placed in all meeting-rooms.
- Doors (other than essential fire doors) permanently opened.
- Daily factory cleaning regime amended to include cleaning of door handles and handrails, at least twice per day.





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MPE also strictly adhered to the UK Government guidelines regarding self-isolation for any employee developing symptoms; having a member of their household develop symptoms; or receiving advice from their GP or other medical expert to self-isolate. Absences due to such isolations naturally had an impact upon MPE's operations and, at one point during April, MPE had almost 20% of its total workforce isolating for various reasons. However, thus far, no MPE employee has developed anything worse than mild symptoms, and no MPE employee has tested positive for the Covid-19 virus.

Subsequently, the actions taken and the measures put in place by MPE have been reviewed by the Environmental Health & Consumer Protection Service and the HM Inspector of Health and Safety (HSE), with both confirming MPE has fully complied with UK Government guidelines and has satisfied all UK Government Covid-19 requirements.



Following the "Working Safely During Covid-19 In Factories, Plants and Warehouses" guidance document published on 11th May 2020 by HM Government, MPE again reviewed its risk assessment. This review showed that MPE had already implemented almost all of the guidance, but, following this review, MPE completed additional remedial actions including the communication and publishing of its risk assessment results and further staff briefings.



Coinciding with this period, as previously reported in issue 21 of the Company Bulletin, MPE was experiencing an unprecedented manufacturing demand, having its largest ever open order book. In order to meet this demand and minimise the manufacturing impact of the self-isolation absences, MPE continued to recruit new manufacturing personnel throughout this period, with total staff numbers now exceeding 60.

For any further information relating to MPE's Covid-19 actions and measures, please contact Paul Currie, Director at pcurrie@mpe.co.uk.

Pictured above in this Covid-19 update are some of the measures implemented throughout MPE Ltd to mitigate the risk posed by the global pandemic. These included social distancing, workspace and workstation distancing, and the regular use of hand sanitiser on site.