

Workers with specialist technical skills, where those skills are required for essential or emergency works or services overseas – avoiding the need to self-isolate on return

Staff travelling home on or after the 8th of June will each need to complete a 'journey contact' form and their manager in the UK should send each of them an e-mailed or written exemption letter to carry with them through the process as they cross the UK border. They will also need to have exempted work to go back to when they arrive in the UK.

This latter point is quite important to avoid having to go into quarantine upon return.

1) What staff have done whilst they have been abroad in terms of safety precautions is good in the sense that it will have minimised the health risks to themselves but the UK Border Force are essentially only interested in two things:-

- (i) Have the staff got the right paperwork to cross the UK border when they return? (see below) and
- (ii) Are they coming back to undertake exempted work?

It's all about what staff are going to do when they return home – not what they did whilst abroad.

Let's deal with each of these issues. The right paperwork comprises of two things;

i) A **journey contact** details form:-

This can be found at www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk. Staff should simply go to the bottom of the short page and click on 'Start now'.

Each member of staff will need to complete this form individually

ii) An **exemption letter** from the UK parent company, also to be carried by staff at all times on the journey.

This takes the following form; (whoever is producing it can simply 'cut & paste' the following):-

(On their company headed paper.)

Company Name

Address

City, Postcode

Phone Number

Date

Recipient Name

Address

City, Postcode

Dear [*exempt individual name*],

Please use and provide this letter, as necessary, as evidence that you are exempt from reg. 4 of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) Regulations requiring a self-isolation period of 14 days.

The purpose of travel to the United Kingdom is *[please provide details of purpose of travel as relevant to exemption, such as details of the essential work to be conducted and the date & locations at which this will be conducted]*. This purpose of travel is exempt from reg. 4 as specified by the following exemption in Schedule 2, Part 2 of the Regulations:- (Clause 26)

26. A worker with specialist technical skills, where those specialist technical skills are required for essential or emergency works or services (including commissioning, maintenance, and repairs and safety checks) to ensure the continued production, supply, movement, manufacture, storage or preservation of goods, where they have travelled to the United Kingdom in the course of their work or otherwise to commence or resume their work.

As your travel is exempt from the mandatory self-isolation period, you may proceed to conduct the activities for which you are exempt once you have entered the United Kingdom. However, you must at all times follow the relevant guidance from Public Health England, including the Safer Working Guidance applicable to any place of work you attend and the Safer Travel Guidance for any essential journeys.

The safer working guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The safer travel guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

Enquiries regarding the provision of this exemption can be directed to *[company contact for exemptions]* at *[provide contact details for company]*.

Yours sincerely,

Named company contact

Again each member of staff will require a separate personally addressed letter.

The senior manager in the UK will need to complete the text in square brackets and it will need to fall 'in-line' with the clause 26 in bold italics above.

There may be other exemption categories in the legislation that you may also feel apply. Clause 24, for instance, refers to 'off-shore' installations which I know may be relevant to some members. If members wish to wade through the legislation and check that there isn't a more appropriate exemption criteria you can find the statutory instrument at:

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/568/pdfs/uksi_20200568_en.pdf

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