

## **Continuity of Site Operations during the Covid-19 Delay Phase**

Following the Government advice yesterday and at least one major UK contractor announcing their corporate directive is to cancel any meetings in relation to any site activities, we are contacting our clients where we are dealing with live projects to discuss and agree measures to be implemented to ensure, as far as we can, that contractual requirements are met. Any deviation from, or adaptation to, normal working activity must be practical and effective. Where these measures are not workable, we need to jointly agree and record the agreed protocols.

There are several possibilities which will trigger such measures, including site operative shortages, disruption and availability of deliveries, (potentially leading to suspension of the works) availability of client representatives and your consultants i.e. PM\ EA\ QS\ CA\ Clerk of Works etc. and their ability to visit site.

Typical areas which could potentially be affected:

1. Progress meetings
2. Site/Quality inspections
3. Agreeing variations
4. Valuations
5. Witnessing commissioning
6. Snagging and handovers
7. Defects inspections

Whilst every effort will be made by us to achieve Business as Usual, attached is a brief list of suggestions which could be considered to mitigate delays to progress, or interruption to recording of issues around quality, or project specific issues. I hope this is helpful and suggest that each site/ project will need its own risk management protocol agreed and published.

Where normal contractual conditions cannot be met, these need to be highlighted, together with alternative measures taken, if these are possible. Our Project Team Leaders will be making contact with the project teams to discuss and agree the above. There will obviously be a set of potential issues around contractual positions in the event of delays, which will be dealt with as and when they arise.

In terms of operational issues, if you feel that any other areas need to be considered, please do not hesitate to contact me or your usual contact at Baily Garner, so that we can share your thoughts and develop best practice.

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