



# Contractors Mechanical Plant Engineers

## NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



### Coronavirus

#### **What are the new rules set out by Boris Johnson?**

#### **Can more people go back to work?**

- From Wednesday, people in England who "can't work from home" will be "actively encouraged to go to work" (the government had earlier indicated this would apply from Monday)
- But they should still avoid public transport if possible because of social distancing
- And the government says it is working on guidance for employers to make workplaces "Covid-secure"

#### **Can you meet friends and relatives?**

The new guidelines are expected to say that two people from different households would be able to meet in outdoor settings like parks as long as they stay more than two metres apart.

#### **Will people be able to exercise more?**

- From Wednesday, people in England will be able to spend more time outdoors "for leisure purposes"
- They can "take more and even unlimited amounts of outdoor exercise" rather than only exercising once a day

- People will also be free to sit in parks, and be able to "play sports" with people from the same household
- It will also be possible for households to drive to other destinations (such as parks and beaches) in England, regardless of distance
- But social distancing rules - keeping at least two metres away from people outside your household - must still be followed

And Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden says sports like **golf, basketball, tennis and fishing** will now be possible for people in the same household.

**Companies will also need to look at staggering shifts**, rethink how equipment is shared and plan safe walking routes for staff - in offices, on factory floors and at building sites.

## **When can I go shopping again?**

- The prime minister says the "phased reopening" of shops - other than food stores and other "essential" outlets - may begin in England on 1 June, at the earliest
- This will only happen where social distancing rules can be followed

Garden centres in Wales will open from Monday. Decisions are awaited in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Mr Johnson made no mention of garden centres in England in his speech.

Some DIY stores, meanwhile, have already reopened - but they are accepting card payments only and have shorter trading hours.

## **Face Masks**

Face coverings are encouraged for enclosed spaces such as public transport and Shops where social distancing is not always possible

## **What about pubs, cafes, restaurants, theatres and cinemas?**

- Mr Johnson says the government "hopes" to reopen "at least some of the hospitality industry and other public places" in England but this will happen later than for shops and schools - by July at the earliest

- This will also depend on scientific advice and the possibility of keeping to social distancing measures

Draft government guidance previously seen by BBC News had said **bar areas, seated areas in restaurants and cafes must remain closed** even as the economy is opened up - and venues should serve takeaways only.

## Will taking flights get easier?

- Mr Johnson says it will "soon be the time" - with coronavirus transmission rates falling - to impose quarantine on people coming to the UK by air

No more detail was given in Mr Johnson's speech on what form this quarantine would take or how it would be enforced.

Overall, social distancing is a big challenge for airports and airlines, with Heathrow boss John Holland-Kaye saying it is "**physically impossible**".

EasyJet **plans to leave middle seats empty**, but Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary **says this would be "idiotic"**.

There has been speculation that air passengers may have to:

- **wear face masks on flights**
- arrive up to four hours before departure, for health screening
- **walk through thermal imaging cameras**

**UK airlines say** they have been told by the government that people arriving in the UK from any country other than the Republic of Ireland from the end of this month will have to self-isolate for 14 days - Mr Johnson did not give this much detail in his speech.

Trade body Airlines UK says such a move would "**effectively kill air travel**".

Meanwhile, the government has said people **should not book holidays at home or abroad** until social distancing rules are relaxed.





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## **Note from the Editor**

I have asked the National Officers if they wish to participate in writing a short article for the newsletter. This could include how they go about their duties as a National Officer, their vision for CMPE, any funny moment they recall, in fact anything relevant to themselves and their position which they feel would be of interest to the members. The following three articles are the first to be included.

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### **A bit of nostalgia in Malaga from our National Chairman - Malcolm Saddington**



Dear Member,

The photograph with my letter will jog your memory, I'm thinking of the old school. You will see the year it was taken was 1997. A lot of you will remember but some members will not.

The committee gave me permission to organise the trip. I used to be employed by Leverton who were the local Caterpillar dealer, so I had a little inside knowledge on how to open doors to gain access to Caterpillar in Spain.

We decided to make it a week's holiday including wives etc. I found a Travel Agent in Preston who was willing to do the donkey work on organising the trip. The airport we used was Malaga because Torremolinos was the area in which Caterpillar are centred in.

In total we had 92 members and guests. We used 5 British Airports to fly from and all flights landed in Spain within 4 hours of each other. I had started to organise the trip back in 1996 which gave me a full 15 months. Everybody paid by standing order monthly over 12 months so all monies were in before we went.

We all arrived on the Saturday afternoon, Sunday and Monday were free days. Monday evening Caterpillar personnel greeted us and took us to the best fish restaurant in Torremolinos.....wonderful. Tuesday was free.

Wednesday, the big day, Caterpillar provided two coaches and took everybody to their fantastic proving ground inland from the coast. They have a vast array of Caterpillar equipment worth millions of pounds which they demonstrate to everybody, provide lunch, and allow visitors to try their hand in operating them. Farewells were taken and then we headed back to the hotel to get ready for the CMPE night out.

This was a free night for everyone. I had organised the whole evening which entailed hiring two coaches to take everyone to the village of Mijas, up in the hills, and taking them to the best restaurant on the strip and providing them with the best meals on the menu. In return, the owner provided us with an opera singer and flamenco dancers. When we were ready to depart, the owner provided the ladies with a kiss and a red rose.....a fantastic evening.

Thursday and Friday were free days. I had a meeting with the management of the hotel, informing them that we were on a bed, breakfast, and evening meal tariff and that we had been out on 3 evenings, so they owed me some money or I would like an end of holiday party on the Friday night in the basement. After discussions it was agreed we could have a party. They provided a cold buffet and a disco, I provided a free bar until the money ran out.

A great night was had by all to finish off a fantastic week. We had started as separate branches and finished as one big happy family. Long live CMPE

**Malcolm Saddington,  
CMPE National Chairman.**



## **Marketing & Public Relations**

I have been a CMPE member for 54 years and I joined the Preston & Fylde Branch in August of 1996.

In those early days, to become a CMPE member, one was invited to attend an interview with a panel made up of the committee members to ensure you were a suitable person to join the CMPE.

Over the years I have held many positions in the Preston & Fylde Branch including Branch Chairman, and in 2007 I was elected CMPE National Chairman.

At that time, the general health and safety rules within the Construction Industry were changing rapidly, and after attending many of the HSE meetings at their London Offices I realised that this was important information for all of our members.

During my time as National Chairman, I visited every CMPE Branch in the UK, and after many discussions it became apparent that there were three main items that needed attention. These were, to maintain a good CMPE recognition within the industry for our Association, to promote our CMPE Certificate of Competence, and to update all our members of the latest Health & Safety requirements. As a result of this I was asked to take on the role of Marketing & Public Relations.

One of the duties of Marketing was to spread the CMPE message to our industry. This was done by having a CMPE Stand at all the major plant exhibitions in the UK. This has worked well with stands at the Scotplant Exhibitions at Edinburgh, the Plantworx Exhibitions at various locations, and the Hillhead Plant Show at Buxton in Derbyshire.

It has been disappointing that the Hillhead Exhibition, the largest plant show of its type in the world, has now been cancelled for this year due to the coronavirus and has been put back to the 22-24th June 2021.

A massive thanks to all of the National Officers and CMPE members who have helped to man the CMPE Stands over the years, and a special thanks to Pat Bowring who has stored and transported all of the exhibition equipment and who has been a real help in promoting the CoC at all of the exhibitions.

I have enjoyed my time in the Marketing & Public Relations position and I have made many good friends in CMPE and the Construction Industry.

**Gerry Bingham.**  
**Marketing & Public Relations**



## **My role of National Treasurer.**

I was appointed to the 'honorary position' of National Treasurer in February 2115 having been a member of Preston & Fylde Branch since 2001 where I served as Branch Treasurer for many years and a term as Branch Chairman.

I had just retired from a 45 year career in finance, the last 27 years with JCB.

My role and responsibilities comprise of overseeing the management and reporting of the financial affairs of the association. My main duty is being responsible for collecting-in and paying-out the association's income and expenditure (with the authorisation of the National Chairman and Vice Chairman), reconciling monthly bank statements, working very closely with the National Registrar, the preparation of Financial Reports for National Council Meetings and the submission of the year-end accounts to the Association's accountants.

The skills required include a certain amount of financial literacy, good attention to detail, timeliness and accurate record keeping.

I would add to this a requirement of a high degree of patience and persistence as when in mid 2015 dealing with a Barclays Bank technical problem via telephone calls which totalled some 35 hours to resolve with their call centre in the Philippines.

The problem being centred on the association's bank account name – Contractors and Mechanical Plant Engineers. Barclay's anti-fraud requirements prevented the paying-in of cheques made out to the abbreviated ' CMPE' which required some amount of leniency on their part as in fact the full account name cannot be used on any of Barclay's correspondence to us due to having too many characters for their system – they themselves used CMPE ! This could not be resolved either locally or at the residing branch in Leicester and out of desperation over a period of some 10 days of my life, I persevered on telephone calls to the Manila call centre to achieve a positive result. I took no prisoners later when dealing with local Barclay's staff regarding initial On-Line payment slip-ups, again revolving around the abbreviated account name. I am now on first name terms with all the Skipton branch staff !

It has always given me great pleasure making the regular monthly Certificate of Competence payments to the branch treasurers and it is vital to the future of the association, as we know it, that we can somehow continue and overcome compliance and acceptance requirements to continue to issue COC's.

**Stuart McDonald**  
**National Treasurer**



## Industry News

### Yanmar offers 'buy now, pay later'



Yanmar Compact Equipment EMEA is offering customers a temporary freeze on payment instalments for a limited period.

For all Yanmar excavators, carriers and wheel loaders purchased before 30th June 2020, purchasers can freeze hire purchase repayments for six months (subject to terms and conditions). A 10% deposit payment is required up front, alongside full VAT and a £195 document signing fee.

Yanmar says that starting payments 24 weeks later gives buyers have a free revenue source for six months before the first payment is due.

David Cockayne, UK & Ireland sales manager at Yanmar Compact Equipment EMEA, said: "We wanted to provide a simple way for UK customers to access the new machines they need today without the requirement for immediate monthly payments. Our 'buy now, pay later' initiative is a hugely beneficial scheme designed with the customer firmly in mind."

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## Construction presses councils for longer site hours



Construction industry representatives are in talks with local government authorities about letting sites stay open for longer to get work going again.

In normal times, local planning authorities put restrictions on the hours that construction work can be carried out, to minimise neighbourhood disruption and nuisance. However, for the construction industry to comply with government instructions for a) social distancing and b) keeping working, longer site hours are required.

Longer hours would enable work to continue in shift patterns, with a lower concentration of workers on site at any one time, and spreading the burden on public transport networks.

Build UK, which represents many parts of the construction industry has confirmed that it is liaising with the Local Government Association to facilitate the extension of permitted working hours for construction sites across the country.

This, together with trying to encourage materials supplier to open up again by demonstrating demand, is one of the key focuses of construction industry representations at the moment, it said.



## Proximity warning tech keeps Nightingale workers apart



Some of the Interserve workers who are turning the Birmingham NEC into a makeshift field hospital have been kitted out with special backpacks that signal when they get too close to anyone else.

Although the first phase of NHS Nightingale Birmingham opened at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) on 16th April, providing 800 critical care beds to treat Covid-19 patients, work continues there towards an ultimate capacity of 4,000, if required.

Proximity warning specialist SiteZone Safety has supplied six of its personnel distancing systems (PDS) to Interserve Construction to help enforce the so-called 'two-metre rule' of social distancing on the site.

The PDS consists of a 2kg pack, and a detection 'tag' that can be worn on a hard hat, attached to a belt or strapped to the upper arm. The system has 100 hours of rechargeable battery life.

The exclusion zone can be configured to suit the site's needs. The proximity alarms are triggered if workers get too within the set boundaries, at which point both their wearable tags will vibrate and the PDS alarms.

At the NEC, two site safety ambassadors wear the PDS units full time and patrol the site to ensure remaining workers are observing the two-metre rule. If not, they are reminded, with accompanying demonstrations using the PDS. The other four units are being rotated between different key tradespeople on site to reinforce social distancing. In this way, it is intended to raise spatial awareness and affect behavioural change on site.



SiteZone Safety was approached by Interserve while the build was getting into full swing in early April. Its proximity warning devices are usually used on construction machinery; as there was nothing off-the-shelf for this particular application, prototypes had to be swiftly made, tested and approved.

Interserve site manager Stuart Palmer said: “We knew about SiteZone Safety’s proximity warning expertise, and they have been able to meet the challenge for us in record time. There was an urgent need to get NHS Nightingale, Birmingham, completed, so high standards of health and safety practice were key drivers to the success of this project. SiteZone Safety’s PDS solution helped us achieve both.”

The PDS repurposes the original SiteZone proximity warning system, which prevents collisions between personnel and mobile plant and vehicles. Unlike with plant, here it is other people are the threat, and the exclusion zone is rigid.

Gary Escott, co-founder of SiteZone Safety, said: “We had an unusually short period of time to develop and produce a solution that we could deploy quickly. The biggest single advantage we have is that our PDS is built on proven technology, with over 125 million hours in use. The technology has been repurposed for this new application i.e. an invisible virus is now the risk, not a moving vehicle or machine.”



# CMPE Branches





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