

COVID-19 Statement 19.02.21

This week we have approved the de-escalation of both our Aberdeen and Southampton UK bases from RED to AMBER. This means a wider range of activities will be able to be undertaken whilst still adhering strictly to the UK Government guidelines.

We have also included an update on aircraft availability, Brexit and travel. OSRL's ability to respond is not materially affected and we are confident in our ability to support a response with our personnel and equipment should there be a need.

Aircraft availability

There has been a significant amount of news in the press regarding the continuing impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the global supply chain, most notably the effect on shipping capacity by sea and air.

Regarding the future capacity of air freight, there are mixed opinions across industry regarding how far in the future capacity will be affected. With the reduction in passenger flights, shipments of vaccines, PPE and the continuation of the shipment of usual goods, experts believe that capacity could be affected for the next 4-10 years.

The impact of vaccine shipments on air charter capacity is something of particular prominence in the media. A number of programmes have been established to coordinate the transport of vaccines with special measures being put in place.

Regarding one of these vaccine transport programmes a spokesperson for one cargo airline said it was:

"very difficult to predict, as it will depend on how many vaccines will be available for distribution, compared with the capacity demand for other cargo. The number of vaccines that have to be transported is considerable, but if you compare it to the total air cargo demand, it is not that much.

We expect we are able to accommodate all vaccine shipments within our existing capacity, and still have opportunities to increase capacity on lanes where this is needed, as not all our planes are yet in operation."

OSRL continue to work with a Charter Broker to receive 2-weekly updates on AN-124 availability as we understand this is a critical aircraft to deliver a number of response solutions. AN-124 availability is improving compared to Q4 of 2020. Availability of general freighters such as B747's change daily, with a potential lead time of 5-7 days, however this may shorten depending on availability. Availability of AN-124 aircraft is currently shorter, with the last market check showing 1-3 days availability (these times constantly change and may be subject to repositioning and permit approvals etc.).

Brexit update

OSRL continue to maintain contact with a range of freight forwarders to understand the current situation regarding new trade agreement rules. The majority of feedback relates to

understanding how new paperwork and systems are used which causes some delays, however transport of goods by sea and air are largely unaffected. OSRL continue to update and test internal documents based on feedback from suppliers and also first-hand experience we have gained during the physical movement of goods into Europe since the new trade agreement.

Travel

With the continuous changes in travel restrictions, testing requirements and quarantine regulations OSRL are regularly engaging with travel specialists and reviewing government advice. OSRL continue to carry out in-field work to support our members, providing the opportunity to use and continuously improve travel procedures that would be used during emergency response activity. OSRL's global footprint provides a great deal of flexibility and provides many options for us to support a response. Members from the travel team form part of OSRL's Business Continuity Team to ensure the safety of personnel remains the highest priority for OSRL.

Also included in this update, our most recent country plan updates are for Oman, Tunisia, Brunei, Brazil, Atlantic Canada, Singapore, Qatar, Kuwait and can be found [here](#).

Are women better leaders in a crisis? One year into the COVID-19 Pandemic and the subject of effective leadership and the value of empathy has been thrust back into the spotlight on a global scale. Gender plays a significant role in a leader's approach, but does that mean that one gender is better at leading in a crisis? Rosie Buse, Principal Consultant explores this area in our latest Insights article. [Read more here](#).

Last week we released a new FREE online course, the on-line course is aimed at those people with no knowledge or background of oil spill response or those with limited operational knowledge but would like to understand the whole response concept. The course takes approximately 75 minutes to complete and you or any colleagues you feel may be interested in the course can [sign up on our website](#) and gain immediate access to the course.

Our next upcoming seminar is Planning For a Successful Capping Operation, registration can be done on the website [here](#). We also have new seminar recordings available in our technical library [here](#).

As always, we remain just a phone call away, ready to virtually support you and your operations. Should you have any questions, please email CMT@oilspillresponse.com or contact our Duty Managers.





A Global Company with a Strong Regional Focus

Registered Office: Lower William Street, Southampton SO14 5QE, United Kingdom. Registered in England No: 1808594

Doc No. OSRL-ADMN-TEM-00262
Revision 5