

COVID-19 Update (30th December 2020)

Following our update on the new variant strain of Covid-19 and its impact on the movement of 'accompanied' freight between the UK and France, we are pleased to report that there has been a resolution and freight is now moving smoothly again. The backlog of some 5-6,000 goods vehicles has now been cleared.

OSRL's travel team continue to closely track new entry restrictions for travellers from the UK imposed by various countries, due to the new Covid variant identified in the UK.

We are now also seeing restrictions in place for South African travellers due to a different variant strain which has emerged in that country.

As we noted in our last communication, OSRL has sufficient trained/experienced personnel at our other global locations to respond in accordance with the Service Level Agreement.

Infection rates remain low in three of our global locations; Singapore, Bahrain and Norway. These consequently have good availability of passenger flights and few entry restrictions from other countries.

Our UK and South Africa based personnel have access to rapid testing. Although passenger flights may be limited, we can still access business jet options. As is always the case, OSRL will require the mobilising party's assistance to gain any necessary entry approvals.

In another development since our last communication; the UK and The European Union have agreed a post-Brexit trade deal. Where it pertains to OSRL's operations, our initial feedback is that this agreement will allow a reasonable flow of personnel and equipment in and out of Europe for both response and preparedness activities.

OSRL worked with several Third Party Logistics Providers and Tax Specialists during 2020, carrying out workshops to understand the ramifications of potential new agreements with the EU. This process will continue in the first quarter of 2021 as the practical application of the new deal becomes more evident.

Concerning mobilising surface response equipment, our globally-distributed model offers strong resilience; with equipment stocks in Singapore, Fort Lauderdale and Bahrain all response-ready with airfreight options as previously reported in other communications.

Airfreight options are also still available from the UK. However, with a reduction in direct passenger flights, there is a commensurate reduction in the availability of belly-freight possibilities from the UK.

With infection rates in the UK due to the new variant Covid-19 strain increasing, OSRL has decided to move our Aberdeen and Southampton bases back to "Red" alert status.

Red alert status means that activities at those locations are, in summary, limited to safely-critical maintenance and other business-critical activities. Over the preceding months, whilst at "Amber" alert status, our teams had brought forward many maintenance activities that would be due in the first quarter of 2021 in anticipation of a second wave of infections. As a consequence of that pre-emptive action, we remain confident of the readiness of our equipment.

Finally, we should again add that although the new strain of Covid-19 is more transmissible, the World Health Organisation has clearly stated that there is no current evidence suggesting that the new strain causes a higher mortality rate or affects vaccines and treatments. However, urgent work is underway to confirm this latter point.

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.

