



Department for  
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& Industrial Strategy

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Chris Buxton  
Chief Executive  
British Fluid Power Association Ltd  
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27 April 2020

Dear Mr Buxton,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April to the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, about maintaining key services and the role of key workers in the fluid power sector during the COVID-19 emergency. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial responsibilities.

The Government is working around the clock to support UK manufacturers to continue with production and maintaining the relevant supply chains. As you will have seen from Alok Sharma's open letter to manufacturing on 8 April, we fully recognise that our country needs your support to keep supply chains moving and key workers mobile, as well as to protect the economy as much as possible. Industry has risen to the challenge and is working collaboratively to ensure that supply chains continue working. As you set out in your letter, it is crucial that the fluid power sector continues to provide essential services and products, including to UK Critical National Infrastructure sectors such as health and transport. I am grateful for your members' contribution to the national effort during this time of unprecedented disruption.

Manufacturing plays an important role in the economy and can continue during the lockdown if done in accordance with the social distancing guidelines wherever possible. Those employees who can work at home should be asked to do so, and where it is not possible to follow the social distancing guidelines in full in relation to a particular activity, your members should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the business to continue to operate, and, if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission between staff. Guidelines from Public Health England provide best practice advice on how this can be done safely in the workplace, and I am heartened to hear that BFPA members are rigorously applying social distancing in all their activities.

Further guidance detailed for employers and workers about working and COVID 19 is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/guidance-for-employers-and-businesses-on-coronavirus-covid-19)

I hope you find this information helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', written in a cursive style.

**NADHIM ZAHAWI MP**  
Minister for Business and Industry