

## COVID-19 Update June 2021

It is now more than a year since COVID-19 restrictions were first implemented across the UK and we are all still suffering the effects on our civil liberties caused by the virus and the restrictions to try to suppress the virus spread.

We all hoped 2021 would be a better year than 2020 and although we are still being guided by our government to “work from home if we can work from home”, there does finally seem to be some signs of the country planning to open up again in the summer.

Vaccinations are progressing well in the UK and a significant percentage of our adult population has been vaccinated with either one or two doses. The latest plans suggest there will be removal of many of restrictions at the end of July but this is still under review. It seems likely it quite a while before there are any significant changes to restrictions on overseas travel that could make business return to a more normal state.

As before DSF is continuing to operate throughout the crisis in line with UK Government guidelines with staggered start, finish and break times and working within all the social distancing and enhanced hygiene policies that are essential to keeping everyone safe. Most of our office staff continue to work from home with a small core of people working from the office full time or part time, to facilitate production or to be a point of contact for any customer enquiries. We are grateful for the support we have received from all our employees; their attitude remains magnificent and the company owes them a great deal of thanks.

Many of our refractories' customers normally visit the factory to inspect orders as part of their approval process. We are accepting visitors for essential visits which can include inspections but we are requesting our customers accept DSF inspection or a virtual inspection if it is possible even for UK customers. Due to quarantine restrictions, it is still really not practical for overseas customers to carry out their normal inspections at DSF. The UK government has a “traffic light” system in place which means visitors from many overseas countries must quarantine in proscribed hotels for 10 days at a significant expense to the traveller and there are extensive COVID testing requirements in place too.

As always, our Sales and Technical Teams are available for discussions but we are still not carrying out any international travel at the moment and only extremely limited travel within the UK. Our team members have become very adept at the use of Zoom, Teams and other video conferencing software. If you have any questions, please ask your normal point of contact. We are all working, available and ready to help. Please stay safe and best wishes from all at DSF.

Neale Parkin 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021