

Further clarity on face coverings in shops

Following the announcement from government earlier this week that face coverings are to be worn in shops from 24 July, the BVRLA is providing clarity to its members on the following areas:

- **Enforcement** – the government has stated that they are expecting shops to encourage compliance with the law (as they would do more generally) and they can refuse entry.
- **Staff and face coverings** – if staff cannot be 2 metres apart whilst they are at work then they should maintain a 1m+ distance from other members of staff with mitigation measures, such as face coverings and hand sanitiser.
- **Delivering/collecting vehicles and face coverings** – if staff cannot be 2 metres apart whilst they are at work in a vehicle then they should maintain a 1m+ distance from other members of staff with mitigation measures, such as face coverings and hand sanitiser.

Detailed guidance is available in the [BVRLA Guide to Operating during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).

Changes to working from home advice

In today's briefing, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced new guidance for employers to help their staff return to work, part of more lockdown easing from 1 August. He also said he hopes the UK will return to 'significant normality' by the middle of November, with remaining restrictions easing 'possibly for Christmas'.

Many more employees in England could be back in the office when the working from home advice changes on 1 August. The government advises that employers should talk to their workers about what steps to take and only bring them back to their place of work if it is safe to do so.

Employers in England will have more freedom to decide whether staff should return to their place of work. For those who do return to work in England, [government guidance on working safely](#) across a range of sectors is available. There is separate advice for [Scotland, Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#). The prime minister said that anybody will be able to use public transport - including to get to work. Employers must follow a strict code of measures, including:

- Observing the 1m+ rule of social distancing
- Introducing one-way systems to minimise contact
- Frequent cleaning of objects and communal areas

Employees can contact their local authority or the Health and Safety Executive if they feel their employer has not addressed any concerns.

FCA consults on delaying the SM&CR Regime

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has today published a [consultation paper](#) on making changes to its rules following the extension to the deadline by which FCA solo-regulated firms need to have implemented the Senior Managers & Certification Regime (SM&CR).

In June Treasury announced that the deadline by which firms must have first assessed the fitness and propriety of their Certified Staff will be delayed until 31 March 2021. This delay will give firms which have been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic time to make the changes they need.

To ensure other SM&CR deadlines remain consistent and to provide extra time for firms that need it, the FCA is consulting on extending the deadline for the following requirements from 9 December 2020 to 31 March 2021:

- the date the Conduct Rules come into force
- the deadline for submission of information about Directory Persons to the Financial Services Register
- changing references in the rules to the deadline for assessing Certified Persons as fit and proper (which has been announced by the Treasury)

The FCA is asking for [comments on the consultation](#) by 14 August 2020.