

COVID-19
Weekly Roundup
1 May 2020

BACKHOUSE
JONES

Vehicle Maintenance

Heavy Vehicle Testing – Update

Last month, DVSA announced that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, heavy vehicle testing (MOTs) of all PSVs, HGVs and trailers had been suspended for up to 3 months.

However, it has now been announced that testing will be available for some vehicles which are being used to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/heavy-vehicle-testing-update/>

Driver Licensing

Medical Changes for Vocational Drivers

The Corporate Services Team at the DVLA has answered some of the most frequently asked questions relating to the suspension of driver medicals for vocational entitlement renewals:

http://www.cpt-uk.org//_uploads/attachment/5076.pdf

PSVAR

PSVAR Extension for Rail Replacement Services

The full implementation of the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) for buses and coaches carrying out rail replacement services has now been extended until 31 December 2020.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/psvar-extension-for-rail-replacement-services/>

Property

Protection for Business Tenants Under the Coronavirus Act 2020

The Coronavirus Act 2020 came into force on 26 March 2020 in response to the overwhelming effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The Act has significant implications for landlords and tenants and considerably impacts the ability of landlords to recover possession of property, which will be welcome news for any operators who lease their premises.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/protection-for-business-tenants-under-the-coronavirus-act-2020/>

Travel Abroad

Updated Requirements for Travel to France

French authorities have announced that any drivers carrying out international transport of goods by road no longer need an International Attestation Form and, instead, a Certificate for International Transport Workers will now be accepted.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/updated-requirements-for-travel-to-france/>

Finance Packages

Chancellor Announces State-Backed Loans for Small Businesses

Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced a new loan scheme for small businesses that will be 100% backed by the government.

The scheme will offer loans of between £2,000 and £50,000, which will be provided to businesses within days of applying and will be

interest and fee-free during the first year. The terms of the loan will be up to 6 years and no repayments will be due during the first year.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/chancellor-announces-state-backed-loans-for-small-businesses/>

Employment

Contracts of Employment – the law has changed

On 6 April 2020 the right to contract of employment for employees and workers became mandatory for employers to issue from day one. What needs to be included within these terms, has also been broadened.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/contracts-of-employment-the-law-has-changed/>

Coronavirus Testing for Key Workers

The Department for Health & Social Care has launched the National Testing Programme to test key workers with symptoms of coronavirus as well as any symptomatic members of their household.

Key workers include passenger and freight transport workers who are critical to the continuity of essential public transport and the production and distribution of food, drink and essential goods.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/coronavirus-testing-for-key-workers/>

BHJ Support

At Backhouse Jones, we are assisting, supporting and advising literally hundreds of operators each and every day of the crisis. We

understand how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting transport businesses and have put together a range of support packages to help including **FREE telephone advice, FREE updating webinars and an online COVID19 Resources Hub:**

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/covid-19-support-packages-for-operators-from-bhj/>

Weekly Roundup – 24 April 2020

Read BHJ's previous weekly roundup of all things COVID19:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID19-Weekly-Roundup-24-April-2020.pdf>

Please note: This publication does not constitute legal advice

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