

INDUSTRIES RAMPING UP DUE TO COVID-19

Although you may be focusing on decreasing production, or even shutting down your facility, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), other organizations are actually ramping up production during this pandemic. An increase in production may be considered necessary to provide essential goods to consumers, hospitals, other industries, etc. Products may include paper goods, cleaning products, food, medicine/medical equipment, protective gear and raw materials for other essential businesses. However, this ramping up process presents a whole new set of property loss prevention challenges.

Included below are items to consider if you are in this situation. For more information and methods for addressing loss prevention issues at your facility, refer to the free resources on FM Global's website at [fmglobal.com](https://www.fmglobal.com).

STORAGE

1. Storage: Has the quantity and/or value of raw material, in-process material or finished goods changed significantly?
2. Are you stockpiling raw materials? If yes, where are they being stored and what is being stockpiled?
3. If production has increased, where are the finished products being stored? Have you leased additional space in third-party facilities for material storage?
4. Are you maintaining storage within the aisles between storage racks?
5. Warehouses: Are higher hazard commodities stored outside of designated areas?
6. Are any increased storage heights in excess of what the sprinkler system is designed to protect?
7. Ignitable liquids: Have recent events resulted in an increase of hazardous material storage or a change in the size or material of storage containers? Are you storing material inside or outside in areas that you don't normally?

WORKFORCE/PRODUCTION

1. What percentage of your workforce is currently available?
2. Have you increased the number of shifts you are running? If yes, how are you staffing those shifts?
3. If production has been scaled up, was the scaling process reviewed to ensure potential hazards were identified?
4. Are trained operators available for extended/more shifts?
5. What is the extent of training required for plant personnel and operators, not previously familiar with a particular process, who now have to operate that process?
6. Ramping up of production may mean downtime for certain production lines:
 - a. How are you maintaining these assets during the layup period?
 - b. Are there any new exposures to equipment when operating at less than 100% capacity?
7. Are adequate and trained personnel available for required maintenance or repairs of equipment?
8. Have you signed any contracts to guarantee delivery of products?

EQUIPMENT

1. Are you operating equipment that has been idle and/or increasing throughput on current lines?
2. In the process of ramping up production, consider the following as part of a pre-startup safety review:
 - a. How did you address any issues found in this review?
 - b. What is the status of those issues? How were they closed out before restart?
 - c. What was the extent of equipment inspections required for previously idled equipment to verify integrity before restarting?
 - d. How did you verify the equipment safety devices before restarting?
 - e. Were there any changes to standard operating procedures (SOPs)? If so, how were they managed?
3. Is the increased production capacity still within the equipment design capacity?
4. Are there any limits to output over specified time periods? If so, do you plan to stay within those limits?
5. Are sufficient spare parts available on site?
6. What is the impact on equipment contingency plans due to lack of timely response from vendors/OEMs or third parties involved with the plan?
7. Electrical
 - a. Have you tracked changes to the electrical systems and modifications based on temporary changes?
 - b. Are these changes newly connected to emergency power?
 - c. Have you given guidance to personnel to not store materials in electrical rooms?

CONSTRUCTION

1. Construction of temporary walls or areas:
 - a. Have you used noncombustible materials?
 - b. Are they provided with sprinkler protection or drop-out ceiling tiles?
2. Is there any new construction on site, including temporary structures?

FLOOD

1. Are low-lying and/or flood-prone areas kept free of storage?
2. Are all areas where flood protection may need to be deployed kept free of potential blockage?
3. Are all drains and water flow paths kept free and unobstructed?
4. Have flood emergency response plans and other emergency procedures been reviewed and adjusted?
5. Have key personnel changed sites? If so, has this been addressed in the flood emergency response plans?
6. Have you created new openings in walls used for flood protection? If so, how will these be protected during flooding?

EARTHQUAKE

1. Are any new flammable gas or ignitable liquids systems (tanks, cylinders, piping, equipment using these materials) restrained to resist earthquake (50- to 500-year zones) if no automatic seismic shutoff is provided? Are you storing any new flammable gas or ignitable liquids that could be damaged in an earthquake?
2. If personnel have changed or been added, do they know how to implement an earthquake emergency response plan? Do any of the changes to production affect this plan?

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