

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) – Impact to Global Supply Chains – UPDATED 30/03/20

Ventec output from our facilities in China & Taiwan is now fully back up and operational. Our facilities have strict infection control procedures in place, including temperature scanning of all employees and the limited number of essential visitors to site, and following strict distance and hygiene protocols in line with Government advice.

These procedures & protocols have also been extended to all our overseas business units in Europe and USA & Canada since early/mid-March, and they will continue to be in force for the foreseeable future. We have also instigated home / remote working and other measures for personnel where possible.

Logistics & Inventories Update:

Airfreight (AF) capacity continues to tighten, as airlines extend the suspension of most services and passenger flights to and from China. There are limited freight-only services operating, within strict protocols, including double crews to avoid disembarkation from the aircraft, fast turn arounds, and other Government restrictions. Airfreight capacity is now at a premium, with charges of US\$10.00+ per kilo already being introduced for April. Airlines are also starting to operate weekly capacity allocation limits to individual businesses.

Sea freight (SF) continues to work well, and Ventec is managing the majority of its supply chain using bulk sea container shipping to maintain its regional inventories. However regional inventories have increasingly come under huge pressure in the last few days, from high demand for electronics for critical medical applications (ventilators) in Europe & the USA. Ventec has reacted to this by immediately shipping bulk shipments by sea, as well as supplementing the list of high demand materials with urgent AF deliveries. We have no choice but to pass on this AF cost, but plan to amortise it over AF and SF deliveries of the affected materials for the next 4-6 weeks until inventories are replenished and built up by sea freight shipments.

Whilst it is impossible to give a guarantee of zero disruption to supply chains, or to absorb the cost of rapidly increasing logistics, Ventec continues to be well placed to manage continuity of supply to its worldwide customer base from its manufacturing base in Suzhou & Taiwan, via its Global network of distribution and service centers, which carry extensive inventories tailored to the needs of its customers in each region.

Where mandatory state-wide lockdowns are in place (as they are currently in Germany, UK & USA), Ventec remains operational as an essential business supporting PCB manufacturers who support the governments and medical industries in our host countries, which are deemed critical during this global crisis.

Ventec supply chains remain operational, and our ability to offer uninterrupted supply by air, sea and from local stock remains good.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will adjust the preventive measures in line with the government advice and policies in each country where Ventec is established.

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