



30th March 2020

Company Announcement

James Jones & Sons Ltd continues to respond daily to UK Government Covid-19 guidelines, whilst ensuring the safety of all employees is first and foremost above all other considerations and we continue to modify working practices to meet these instructions.

The statement by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the UK wood processing sector vital role at this challenging time includes the following:

“Those involved in the supply chain of wood for key goods (including, but not limited to pallets, heating, packaging, tissue paper, timber harvesting, sawmills) should be considered key workers. Only necessary workers, producing key goods, should continue to attend workplaces.”

Supporting this statement, Scotland’s Rural Economy and Tourism Secretary, Fergus Ewing, stated:

“In these challenging and difficult times, it is imperative that essential goods, such as food supplies and medicines, and biomass fuel for hospitals and care homes get to the places where they are needed. This needs pallet manufacture and woodfuel processing to continue.

“I am immensely proud that Scotland’s forestry and timber processing sectors are working closely together to play their part in fighting the impact of this virus.”

As designated “key workers” we continue to focus our production capabilities on those timber specifications that will support both our own, and third party, pallet and packaging manufacturers. We have received statements and letters of support from the pallet pool operators, supermarkets, drug companies, chemical companies and the majority of our customers outlining their requirements for moving vital goods on pallets such as food, pharmaceutical supplies, drugs, chemicals and other important products that can keep the country and the population operational and healthy.

Our co-products (sawdust, chips, bark) are also vital feedstocks for the UK biomass and poultry industries and these are vital supplies to maintain the nation’s electricity generation and food production at a time of enhanced demand.

We know from our supply chain partners that our collective efforts are critical to them and to the UK, and the Board are monitoring the situation on an hour by hour basis and, at all times, are making decisions determined by health and safety guidelines and procedures for all employees.