

Corona consequences increase operational risks.

Governments worldwide have adopted far-reaching measures to limit the spread of the corona pandemic. The global economy as well as the German economy has to deal with the consequences on a daily basis. We understand this is a difficult time both for companies and employees alike. Business shutdown and its effect on production are associated with increased risks for the industry as well as the service sector. It is important not only to ensure adequate safety measures are taken during the necessary shutdowns but also during the restoration of production and operations to avoid extensive damage.

The Risk Engineers from HDI Risk Consulting (HRC) can provide you with competent and tailored safety advice to assist in preventing foreseeable losses. The experts support our insureds not only during shutdown times but also by giving clients advice on how to get back into operation in a controlled and safe manner. For more information, see some general restart loss prevention measures below.

Restart loss prevention measures

The measures listed below can help to prevent or mitigate property losses and long-term business interruption when restarting a business after a shutdown.

- Make sure that all fixed protection and detection systems on site, including machine protection, are fully operational before startup of production.
- Reinstate regular testing of all fixed detection and protection systems.
- Inform the local fire department and the local alarm monitoring company about startup date.
- Restore site security to pre-closure conditions, including site and building access, security systems, security guards, lighting, control of contractors and visitors, etc.
- Perform a thorough self-inspection of the site, including all buildings (interior and exterior) and equipment, to detect and correct any unsafe or abnormal conditions, such as damage, maintenance issues, improper housekeeping or storage, signs of vandalism, including fencing, hydrants etc.
- Complete and reinstate any inspection, testing and maintenance procedures that may not have been done since the shutdown.
- Check the adequate operation of supply systems and production facilities such as:
 - Electrical supply: It must be ensured that the restart of the power supply and the electrical systems is carried out step by step according to a defined checklist. Visually inspect all breakers and electrical equipment (indoor and outdoor) for contamination (or presence of wildlife). Dehumidify if necessary. Test protective relays before energizing.
 - Pipe systems: Pipelines and other heat management systems (such as cooling, lubrication etc) must also be checked during the restart, as pressure surges can affect the flanges, welded connections and holders.
- Check gas lines for leaks during commissioning.
- Check the heating systems for leaks when commissioning.
- Test combustion safety controls for all fuel fired equipment before returning it to service.
- Flush drinking water pipes to avoid legionella and bacteria.
- Check exhaust / vapor / dust extraction systems.
- Empty and clean the filter systems. When restarting the filter systems, identify possible pressure drops or clean the systems again after a reasonable operating time.
- Before commissioning check all furnace safety and gas extraction systems as well as exhaust pipes, spray dryers and pneumatic conveyor systems for any deposits, caking etc.
- Check for condensates and remove deposits before start-up – especially in compressors and similar mechanical devices and units such as Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser plants (RTO).
- Electroplating and pickling facilities – if present: Check the composition of the individual baths and the thermal monitoring of the rectifier and any electrical heating devices in start-up.
- Follow the OEM / manufacturer's recommendations before restarting any equipment that has been idle.
- Check all equipment for missing spare parts.

Supply chain aspects to consider

- Have the raw material suppliers restarted their activities?
- Are there alternative suppliers available and do they have the capacity to provide sufficient materials?
- How long will product validation / certification / recertification take in the case of new suppliers?
- Is transportation from the suppliers to the site possible? (suppliers in foreign countries)
- Can raw materials be received in a safe way according to local guidelines?
- If intermediate goods are produced, which customers are now operational? What quantities of our goods do they need?
- What quantities of goods are needed if finished products are produced? (avoid larger stock levels on site)
- Review the site's business continuity plan and revise as needed based on lessons learned during the temporary shutdown.

General and work safety aspects

We highly recommend using the regularly updated advice given by national authorities, work safety and public health institutes as well as institutions such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), CDC and in Europe the ECDC. Helpful advice can also be found on the websites of accident insurers as well.

- Are social distancing and hygienic rules during startup / production / changing shifts and breaks (e.g lunch) properly managed and communicated?
- How will the necessary disinfection of areas and/or materials be organised? For example, disinfecting machines in between shifts and at the end of each work day, toilets, showers, tables and chairs, etc.
- What additional safety materials are needed? (Disinfectants, face masks, gloves, screens, etc.)
- Where can the necessary safety materials be obtained?
- Are there enough safety materials on site? How long will stocks last?
- Can the continuity of sufficient safety materials on site be assured?

Contact

For questions and/or more information you can contact us via:

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- How will employees be informed about the new safety and hygienic rules?
- How will suppliers and third parties be informed about the new safety and hygienic rules?
- Can the necessary staff members get to the site? (public transport, local restrictions, etc)
- Are there enough healthy staff members to assure the continuity of production? Are temporary staff members available in case of need?

Other helpful HRC publications

- > [REG Business Shutdown](#)
- > [Corona Crisis – How to adapt your logistics](#)
- > [Checklist Measures for Shutdown of Construction and Erection Sites](#)
- > [Checklist Standstill and Restart of Technical Facilities](#)

Helpful links

International:

- > www.who.int
- > www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/infection-prevention-and-control
- > www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Europe / Germany:

- > www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19-pandemic
- > www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm
- > www.bmas.de/DE/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/einheitlicher-arbeitsschutz-gegen-coronavirus.html
- > <https://publikationen.dguv.de/widgets/pdf/download/article/3790>

Benefits of HDI Risk Consulting

- > Comprehensive Risk Engineering expertise in the identification, assessment and mitigation of operational risks.
- > HDI Risk Consulting Professionals offer risk and safety related analysis to enable specific risk prevention action plans to be developed.
- > Qualified international Risk Engineering network offers clients worldwide multi-discipline support in Risk Engineering.
- > HDI Risk Consulting is a wholly owned subsidiary of HDI Global SE and thus part of the Talanx Group, one of the largest insurance groups in Germany and Europe.