

O-5-2020

01 April 2020

To: The Chief Executive and Certification Staff of all Issuing Bodies

Dear Chamber Colleagues,

RE: Force Majeure Certificate

These are certificates attesting the existence of force majeure circumstances i.e. circumstances beyond the control of the applicant such as fire, flood, industrial disputes, pandemic etc. Please note that we can only certify factual details that can be evidenced. We cannot comment as to whether or not Force Majeure applies or argue such claims on behalf of the applicant. It is the responsibility of the applicant to claim Force Majeure and the issuing body's role is to provide a certificate in support of such claim. Chambers should charge for this service. An example of a Force Majeure certificate is attached.

How to apply

- Email a letter confirming details of the force majeure circumstances and the scope of non-fulfilment of contractual obligations due to these circumstances, signed by the company director, to XXXXXXX@XXXXXXXchamber.co.uk.
- This will need to be backed up by documents by the competent authorities or verifiable sources attesting to the existence of the force majeure circumstances (not required if circumstances are related to COVID-19)
- We will produce a draft letter and email it to you for approval.
- The letter on Chamber headed paper will be stamped with the Chamber logo stamp and released once we have received the payment

Thank you,

Liam

Liam Smyth | Director - Trade Facilitation | British Chambers of Commerce
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FORCE MAJEURE CERTIFICATE

I, **[Name of Chamber] SIGNATORY** at the **[Name of Chamber]** Chamber of Commerce hereby certify that a strain of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was reported in Wuhan, China on 31 December 2019. Subsequently, this virus was officially declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11th March 2020.

On 23rd March 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom imposed a series of measures to reduce cross infection including a 3-week lockdown for most of the population. This has impacted many businesses.

This had caused severe disruption to the movement of goods in and out of the United Kingdom from across the globe. It has also limited the internal movement of labour and caused factory closures which has impacted the ability of companies to fulfil contractual obligations.

Since the original outbreak in China, the virus has spread to many countries and regions around the world, including Europe, and has caused trade dislocation.

Dated this XX day of XXXXX 2020
For **[Name of Chamber]**

NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY