

The Games, will they effect you, or your suppliers?

Colin Ive July 2011

With the start of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games now just over a year away many London based organisations will, via their local authorities, have been encouraged to assess the impact of the Games upon their business and prepare plans to enable them to continue business if not as usual then as close to this as possible.

These organisations will have been made aware of the anticipated huge increase in underground journeys throughout the time of the Games. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) have for some time been conducting a 'Keep on Running' campaign designed to highlight the Transport for London (TFL) need to reduce 'normal' commuter traffic by 30%. An essential if they are to cope with an additional 3 million journeys which will be made during the time of both the Olympic and the Paralympic games.

A significant part of this campaign is to encourage business to allow staff to work from home where ever possible. For many organisations this will require new policies to deal with home working and a significant aspect for them to consider when doing this will be their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at work act. It is timely therefore that the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) are scheduled by the end of August to issue clarification on the requirements of business to conduct risk assessments on the homes of such temporary home working staff which, it is very much hoped, will allow such policies to have a clear and common sense approach to this issue.

It is not just London based organisations that need to take a step back and assess the impact the Games may have upon their business. Far from it. Many events are taking place well outside of London as the following examples demonstrate. Surrey will host much of the Cycling road race. In Buckinghamshire at Eton Dorney the Rowing competitions will be held which alone are expected to attract 30,000 spectators a day. Whilst in Dorset the Sailing events are to be hosted by Weymouth at a time of year this popular holiday venue is traditionally at its busiest. Other locations hosting Olympic events include Glasgow, Manchester, Cardiff, Coventry and the Lee Valley in Hertfordshire,

I would encourage all UK organisations to step back and take the time to understand what, if any, effect the Games will have not just directly upon themselves but very importantly what impact they may have upon their key suppliers. Now is the time to challenge those suppliers and ask the questions. "What assessments have they made? If affected what plans have they in place to ensure the continuity of their business and thus the supplies to their customers? The more resilient the supplier the more resilient the customer. So don't delay, ask today!

Further information on the 'Keep on Running' campaign will be presented by Rose McArthur of the ODA when she speaks at BRiSC2011. It is important to book as soon as possible for this event which is proving extremely popular as delegate numbers are restricted.