## Chinese New Year 2021 and how it could affect your business!

IN mainland China and other countries that celebrate this annual holiday - such as Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Vietnam and Singapore - Chinese New Year is the single biggest event of the year.

Here at Turner & Coates, we have built up extensive experience in dealing with plants, factories and businesses across the People's Republic of China and Southeast Asia.

Everything closes and everyone goes home - in some cases, for several weeks. With this in mind, we thought it would be a good idea to explain the protocol for Chinese New Year (CNY) in 2021 - the Year of the Ox - including potential business shutdowns, and how these could potentially impact on your trading and projects worldwide.

## So, when does it all begin?

This year, CNY preparations will begin on Thursday 4th February, and last until Chinese New Year's Eve (Thursday 11th February), with the New Year celebrations continuing until Monday 22nd February.

This hugely important, national public holiday - celebrated by more than two billion people across the



Kung Hei Fat Choy: 2021 is the Year of the Ox in the traditional Chinese Calendar, and there's a strong chance that the nationwide shutdown may affect your supply chains.

globe - typically results in seven days off work for many employees, though celebrations can sometimes last for more than two weeks.

That said, it is sensible to expect factory and business shutdowns for two weeks or more. The annual Chinese shutdowns are usually proceeded by large-scale demand from companies that need to make up for the two weeks worth of delayed products and/or services.

Even if you've been through this before, it is imperative to note that, this year, CNY falls some 18 days later than it did in 2020, and, obviously, the far-reaching impacts of COVID-19 are still being acutely felt by the vast majority of Chinese and

Southeast Asian suppliers and manufacturers alike.

## How exactly could it affect my business?

If your business or project relies on suppliers or manufacturers in China and Southeast Asia, then the chances are that you will feel the effects of CNY shutdown.

These may include an unwelcome halt in production and delays in completing your order, lack of supplier contact and, possibly, even a reduction in product quality.

## Issues arising from shipping delays

Since CNY celebrations take place every year, many Chinese and Southeast Asian businesses do their best to compensate for the shutdown, by increasing their output before the holidays.

This situation often leads to an overload of shipments needing to be made, right before the holiday begins. Factor in the distinct probability that many workers will be leaving early to get a head start their holidays, and there's a very high likelihood that your shipment could be delayed in the build-up.

If you require specific advice or assistance with regard to dealing with any CNY-related issues, then please contact us today on +44 (0) 161 660 8656!

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