

Company Bulletin

for EMC, EMP, HEMP & TEMPEST Protection SSUE 28



A large HEMP filter order is loaded for delivery



The shipment is despatched on time from MPE



Fully laden ships in dock at Felixstowe, the UK's largest container port

MPE achieves 95% on-time delivery

Since 2019 significant supply chain pressures, coupled with an unprecedented period of growth, have presented some of the greatest challenges that MPE has ever faced. There are instances where component materials sourced by MPE which had an average 12-week delivery before the Covid pandemic now have a lead-time of double that figure.

MPE's well-established supplier relationships have proved critical, and close contact with suppliers every step of the way has allowed MPE to plan its procurement and stockholding with precision, ensuring that manufacturing schedules have been maintained.

The company has also expanded its supply base and migrated to more local suppliers wherever possible. Such expansion has proved to be a key element in mitigating the risk of stock shortages or manufacturing issues. Furthermore a more local supply base is always helpful in reducing the risks of delay associated with transshipment from long distance.

However, further mitigating supply issues, following the careful analysis of historic usage and forward forecasts, MPE has increased its stockholding of many components – in some cases doubling it – to provide almost a year of component cover for every eventuality.

The conveyance of component materials to MPE and of finished product to clients have presented further issues for MPE. Shipping times have now significantly increased when compared to pre-pandemic times. An accurate picture of prevailing shipping schedules has been vital, and MPE now employs dedicated ship tracking applications to provide up-to-date logistics reports.

The maintenance of regular dialogue with clients has been critical. Whilst any lengthening of delivery times has been minimised by the supply chain measures undertaken by MPE, some lead-times have unavoidably been extended. Under those circumstances, the accurate scheduling of multiple and concurrent projects and the management of client expectations have never been more vital.

Despite MPE having experienced an almost 50% increase in its overall production since 2019 – and in the face of the considerable challenges outlined above – through 2021 MPE achieved a 94% on-time delivery in full to the day and a 96% on-time delivery in full to the week, against the original acknowledgement dates provided to its client base.

Whilst 100% on-time delivery in full is, of course, the ultimate goal, in the real world where unforeseen delays can inevitably arise, this circa 95% on-time delivery rate means that MPE has continued to fulfil almost all orders on schedule and without disruption to the client. This has been made possible only by the recent and ongoing steps undertaken by MPE, which generally run in the background, unnoticed by the company's customer base.