To: PMA Pennsylvania Members

We recognize that there is a lot of confusion right now about which businesses in the Commonwealth may remain open during the Stay-at-Home directive that is now in effect. As we work with members across the country during this difficult time, Pennsylvania continues to create the most confusion about which businesses may continue their operations.

On Saturday, we pressed the Governor’s office for additional clarification on which businesses are covered by their order and permitted to continue operations. Following pressure from us, individual companies and others, Pennsylvania did expand the type of companies permitted to remain open but the list is still narrower than in other states. In determining which companies are “essential,” Pennsylvania used NAICS codes (their mfg. process) and NOT the end use – such as medical, auto, defense, etc., which the federal government did.

The updated directive permits the following to remain operational: “medical equipment and supplies, the defense industrial base (see Page 11 for federal definition); defense related aerospace, electrical component manufacturing, controls, engine, turbine, and power transmission equipment manufacturing, commercial and service industry machinery manufacturing, ventilation, heating, A/C, and commercial refrigeration equipment, and primary metal manufacturing,” among others indicated as open with “Yes” in the “May Continue Physical Operations” column. To see if your company could fall under the description, also pay particular attention to the “notes” column.

If a business is still unclear about their status, they may e-mail the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for further assistance at ra-dcedcs@pa.gov. Any business not authorized to maintain physical operations according to the list and the Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency advisory should apply for a waiver. Businesses seeking a waiver “should comply with the Governor’s Order and suspend in-person, physical operations until a waiver is approved and provided.”

Those appearing on the list do not need a permit to operate, though we have spoken to some manufacturers who have secured a written statement from their customer that they are part of the supply chain for an essential/life-sustaining business.

The state has been approved by the Small Business Administration for companies seeking disaster loans for up to $2 million.
In Washington, D.C., our lobbyists indicate that the U.S. Senate is hoping to vote on a final package in the coming days, though a U.S. Senator has now tested positive for COVID-19 with several others under self-quarantine.

The measure on which PMA is lobbying could include $350 billion for small businesses, those defined as having fewer than 500 employees. This proposal includes allowing eligible companies to receive zero interest "business interruption loans" to pay employees, rent, or mortgages that are backed by the Small Business Administration (SBA), with loan forgiveness contingent on keeping workers on the payroll. The draft bill also includes an expansion of Net Operating Loss and several other provisions requested by the association.

Following conversations with members and a survey of companies last week, our team in Washington, D.C. submitted to the White House and Congress a list of 10 recommendations to support manufacturers during the COVID-19 economic recovery process, several of which are included in the pending measure. The recommendations include solutions to help with cash flow, prompt payment terms to suppliers for companies receiving federal funds, ensuring banks do not revoke existing lines of credit, and making sure manufacturers have the resources to continue operations and quickly ramp up production after the crisis wanes.

The situation is very fluid and, while PMA is a national organization, we are mobilizing all of our resources to assist our members throughout the country. Working with our advocacy team in Washington, D.C., we have created www.onevoiceinfo.org as a one-stop resource for members to find links to the latest OSHA, CDC and local government resources, including workplace safety posters to print.

Please feel free to reach out to us at any time with questions.