April 6, 2020

To: PMA Tennessee Members

On Thursday, April 2, 2020, Governor Bill Lee issued an executive order requiring all persons in Tennessee to stay at home except for when engaging in Essential Activity or Essential Services. This action amends an earlier order closing all non-essential businesses and urging residents to stay at home. The order remains in effect through April 14, 2020.

The order specifies 30 Essential Businesses and Operations that may continue to operate with employees reporting for work. Included in the list is “Supplies for Essential Businesses and Operations...businesses that sell, manufacture, support, or supply other Essential Services with the support or materials necessary to operate” (page 10, subsection 20) and “Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries... manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services” for essential businesses and industries (page 11, subsection 25).

The order also incorporates a federal definition of critical infrastructures to determine essential businesses. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) developed a list of essential critical infrastructure to determine the sectors, sub-sectors, segments or critical functions that should continue normal operations.

The CISA list includes Critical Manufacturing as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce and classifies workers necessary for the manufacture of “materials and products needed for medical supply chains, and for supply chains associated with transportation, energy, communications, information technology, food and agriculture, chemical manufacturing, nuclear facilities, wood products, commodities used as fuel for power generation facilities, the operation of dams, water and wastewater treatment, processing and reprocessing of solid waste, emergency services, and the defense industrial base. Additionally, workers needed to maintain the continuity of these manufacturing functions and associated supply chains, and workers necessary to maintain a manufacturing operation in warm standby” as essential, as well as “workers who produce or manufacture parts or equipment that supports continued operations for any essential services” (page 13, Critical Manufacturing). Manufacturers supporting the defense supply chain are also deemed essential (page 14, Defense Industrial Base).

Businesses that can conduct operations with 10 or fewer persons within the premises of the business at one time and can operate within all health guidelines are also deemed essential under the order.

The situation is fluid and, while PMA is a national organization, we are mobilizing all of our resources to assist our members throughout the country. We’ve also created a coronavirus resource center on the PMA website, which is being regularly updated to provide members with important information and links to government resources.

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