



Background

Below is are excerpts of the Department of Homeland Security’s Cyber Infrastructure and Security Agency (CISA) published “Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce,” which outlined 16 critical workforce sectors. The guidance was initially published on March 18, 2020 (V 1.0) and revised with technical corrections on March 23, 2020 (V 1.1); substantive updates were released on March 28, 2020 (V 2.0). In the accompanying memorandum, CISA notes:

“This list is advisory in nature. It is not, nor should it be considered, a federal directive or Standard. Additionally, this advisory list is not intended to be the exclusive list of critical infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue during the COVID-19 response across all jurisdictions. Individual jurisdictions should add or subtract essential workforce categories based on their own requirements and discretion”

The excerpts below reflect direct mention or inferences to the print, packaging and graphic communications industry. The full guidance document and CISA resources can be found [here](#). PIA continues to collaborate with CISA to provide industry feedback on the guidance and to request clarifications and additions.

CISA “Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce”



Food and Agriculture

V 2.0:

Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food ingredient production and processing facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging.

Transportation and Logistics

V 2.0:

Employees of firms providing services, supplies, and equipment that enable warehouse and operations, including cooling, storing, packaging, and distributing products for wholesale or retail sale or use. Includes cold- and frozen-chain logistics for food and critical biologic products.

V 2.0:

Manufacturers and distributors (to include service centers and related operations) of packaging materials, pallets, crates, containers, and other supplies needed to support manufacturing, packaging staging and distribution operations.

V 2.0:

Postal, parcel, courier, last-mile delivery, and shipping and related workers, to include private companies.**

Old (V 1.1)

Postal and shipping workers, to include private companies

PIA Request (3/25/20)

Postal and shipping workers, to include private companies, and workers producing mail for distribution through the United States Postal Service.

Communications and Logistics

V 2.0:

Workers who support radio, television, and media service, including but not limited to front-line news reporters, studio, and technicians for newsgathering, and reporting, and publishing news.

Old (V 1.1)

Workers who support radio, television, and media service, including but not limited to front-line news reporters, studio, and technicians for newsgathering, and reporting.

PIA Request (3/25/20)

Workers who support print, radio, television, and media service, including, but not limited to front line news reporters, studio, and technicians for newsgathering and reporting, and workers who manufacture newspapers.

OTHER COMMUNITY- OR GOVERNMENT-BASED OPERATIONS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

V 2.0:

Elections personnel to include both public and private sector elections support.

Old (V 1.1)

Elections personnel

PIA Request (3/25/20)

Elections personnel and workers producing printed election ballots, sample ballots, voter guides and campaign-related mail supporting the current election cycle.

V 2.0:

Workers supporting essential maintenance, manufacturing, design, operation, inspection, security, and construction for essential products, services, and supply chain and COVID-19 relief efforts.

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

V 2.0:

Workers necessary for the manufacturing of metals (including steel and aluminum), industrial minerals, semiconductors, 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.

Old (V 1.0)

Workers necessary for the manufacturing of metals (including steel and aluminum), industrial minerals, semiconductors, materials and products needed for medical supply chains, 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.

CHEMICAL

V 2.0:

Workers supporting the safe transportation of chemicals, including the those supporting tank truck cleaning facilities and workers who manufacture packaging items.

V 2.0:

Workers supporting the production of protective cleaning and medical solutions, personal protective equipment, disinfectants, fragrances, and packaging that prevents the contamination of food, water, medicine, among others essential.

V 2.0:

Workers who support the production and transportation of chlorine and alkali manufacturing, single-use plastics and packaging that prevents the contamination or supports the continued manufacture of food, water, medicine, and other essential products, including glass manufacturing.

****NOTE:** The US Postal Service has also issued essential workforce guidance relating to mailers and mailing service providers in the private sector. This guidance is in the form of a March 23, 2020 USPS Industry Alert that can be found [here](#).

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