

NAM COVID-19 Update
April 17, 2020

I spent the morning on the phone with senior White House officials discussing a rising concern with Mexico and the closing of vital manufacturing facilities the government does not consider essential. I made it very clear that this will radically disrupt the supply chain and the personal protective equipment we need here in the United States. In addition to our [earlier call](#) for the Mexican president to reciprocate U.S. guidance on essential facilities, we are working with the highest levels of the U.S. federal government as well as Mexican officials to ensure Mexico keeps its commitments to the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.

Contact NAM Senior Director of International Economic Affairs [Ken Monahan](#) with any questions regarding efforts in Mexico and globally. For domestic questions, contact NAM Vice President of Energy and Resources Policy [Rachel Jones](#).

Here are some other recent updates:

White House Releases Guidelines for Reopening

The White House released guidelines yesterday for reopening the country using a three-phased approach. The guidelines largely encourage states to make their own decisions based on the conditions locally. The plan calls for states to move to the first phase of reopening after exhibiting a downward trend of documented cases or positive tests over a two-week period. The guidelines also lay out important steps for both employers and individuals that are aligned with current CDC guidelines. You can see the president's guidelines [here](#) and continue referencing the [NAM's COVID-19 State Resources](#) to keep up to date on how governors' actions will affect operations in states where you operate.

OSHA Grants Temporary, Good Faith Relief from Recurring Testing Requirements

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced that employers who are unable to fulfill annual testing, inspection, training and auditing due to the COVID-19 outbreak will be granted relief as long as the company makes good faith efforts to stay in compliance. OSHA will evaluate "whether the employer made good faith efforts to comply with applicable OSHA standards and, in situations where compliance was not possible, to ensure that employees were not exposed to hazards from tasks, processes or equipment for which they were not prepared or trained."

You can read the enforcement memorandum and OSHA-provided examples of certain tests that may qualify [here](#). Contact NAM Director of Labor and Employment Policy [Drew Schneider](#) with questions.

IRS Accepting Fax Claims for NOL Refunds and AMT Credits

Starting today, the IRS will be accepting claims by fax, rather than hard-copy mailing, for net operating loss refunds and unused alternative minimum tax credits—two key provisions of the CARES Act that are intended to help businesses retain more liquidity. More information on the temporary faxing process can be found [here](#).

Please keep visiting the regularly updated nam.org/coronavirus site for the latest information, including state-specific resources, and email our Response Team at responseteam@nam.org with any questions or feedback.

Best,

Jay

President and CEO
National Association of Manufacturers