

CMA Weekly Update



CMA Weekly Update – 11-20-20

Key Issues

- **Deductible Business Expenses and PPP Loans:** Earlier this year, the IRS issued guidance trying to prevent a “double tax benefit” by denying deductions for trade and business expenses (e.g., payroll) associated with forgiven PPP loans, which under the CARES Act are not considered as taxable income. From the very beginning, the NAM has [fought](#) this harmful IRS policy because it undermines the critical liquidity support Congress intended to provide. Last night, the IRS issued additional guidance related to PPP loans and the ability of taxpayers to deduct associated expenses. Of note, the latest guidance still disallows deductions in cases whereby “the taxpayer reasonably expect[s] to receive forgiveness” but has yet to receive or apply for the loan forgiveness. You can read the guidance [here](#). The NAM will work to reverse this policy to ensure that manufacturers are able to receive the most support possible. If you have any questions, please let me know.
- **CDC Updates Critical Infrastructure Guidance:** In response to the fact that more than 1 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States in the past seven days, we wanted to make you aware that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated a range of guidance, including for [holidays](#), travel and [critical infrastructure](#). The CDC is now recommending that Americans postpone travel and stay home to protect yourself and your families. The CDC also clarified its guidance for critical infrastructure when a worker has close contact with someone infected or potentially infected with COVID-19. More details can be found [here](#).
- **Small Business Administration:** Manufacturers that lawfully received a Paycheck Protection Program loan should not face undue scrutiny beyond the scope of the relevant program qualifications. That is why the NAM is leading a [coalition](#) of business organizations to push back against the Small Business Administration’s recently announced [Loan Necessity Questionnaire](#) for PPP borrowers that received loans in excess of \$2 million. The NAM will continue to work with policymakers to protect manufacturers that received PPP loans. This week, NAM’s President & CEO Jay Timmons wrote a letter to the SBA and the Treasury Department to express manufacturers’ concerns and explain why we believe the SBA’s new questionnaire is contrary to Congress’s intent in establishing the PPP—and would put unwarranted pressure on businesses. You can read Jay’s letter [here](#).
- **Register for the CMA Winter Leadership Conference:** Don’t forget to register for the virtual CMA Winter Leadership Conference, January 13-14, 2021. This conference is

open to all association executives. As associations are learning to operate in a virtual world, member engagement, communications strategies, creating new revenue streams and addressing workplace culture are just some of the topics of discussion at this year's conference.

New this conference is a Team Bundle registration fee. To help you and your teams prepare for the year ahead at a time of change, we're offering a new registration option. An organization can register up to four staff members for just \$500. Visit the CMA Winter Leadership Conference website [here](#).

CMA Member Highlights

The NAM is interested in sharing new programs, initiatives or campaigns your organization has launched. Please send them to me to include in the CMA Weekly Update.

- Congratulations to **Dick Church**, the Executive Director of the **Plastic Pipe and Fitting Association (PPFA)**. Dick was recently presented with the Partner of the Year [Award](#) from the Vinyl Institute. The Partner of the Year award is one of the highest annual honors given to an individual to recognize an ally who has made unique contributions to the [Vinyl Institute's](#) outreach and education program.
- The **American Cleaning Institute** released their findings from a recent national survey which unveils strong consumer confidence in business cleanliness, with 65% of Americans saying businesses are cleaning enough. To help business across the country navigate a successful re-opening, the American Cleaning Institute rolled out new resources through the [Healthy Returns program](#). Adapted from public health recommendations, the free online toolkit provides guidance and checklists containing easy to understand reminders on hygiene and cleaning that are crucial to keeping the workplace healthy and safe.
- The **American Forest & Paper Association** recently announced its annual [Better Practices, Better Planet 2020 Sustainability Award winners](#), which recognize exemplary sustainability programs and initiatives in the paper and wood products manufacturing industry. Visit sustainability.afandpa.org/awards for full award-winning project summaries and videos.
- The **American Chemistry Council**, the [American Institute of Chemical Engineers](#), [The Chemours Company](#) and [HBCU Week Foundation](#) announced the chemical industry's first collaborative equity, diversity and inclusion initiative aimed at creating pathways for more underrepresented groups to enter and succeed in the chemical industry. The **Future of STEM Scholars Initiative (FOSSI)** provides opportunities for manufacturers, supply chain partners and other stakeholders to fund scholarships, create internships and facilitate mentoring and leadership training for students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). To learn more about FOSSI, visit aiche.org/fossi.
- The **National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA)** has successfully updated national safety standards allowing for the unrestricted placement of vending machines refrigerated with advanced, environmentally-friendly coolants. Since 2017, NAMA has worked with the American Society of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

(ASHRAE) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to amend outdated standards that restricted refrigerated vending machines using HC R-290—the industry’s most viable coolant alternative due to its low environmental impact and excellent performance—from being placed in hallways, lobbies and places of ingress and egress

Manufacturing Leadership Council

- **Invitation: Driving Innovation and Teamwork During and After COVID-19:** The NAM is hosting a roundtable discussion on how manufacturers have found creative, innovative ways to accelerate product development during COVID-19. On Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 3:00 p.m. EST, project engineering leaders from the NAM’s Manufacturing Leadership Council, Onshape, OceanGate and Dixie Iron Works will discuss how our industry is overcoming remote work communication and collaboration challenges, improving tools and technology to accelerate time to market, improving relationships with suppliers and becoming more resilient. You can click [here](#) to register.