

NAM COVID-19 Update
May 20, 2020

The NAM's Manufacturing Leadership Council unveiled a new online information center today dedicated to COVID-19 operational resources. Among the new resources, "[New Operational Practices to Consider in the Time of COVID-19](#)" provides topline shared practices to assist manufacturers in meeting or exceeding federal guidelines while also reducing operational and business risks. This guide leverages the experiences and real-world practices that manufacturers across America and around the world have put into place, and I was able to talk about that leadership on [Fox News](#) today. We hope that you will share this new resource with your members.

Throughout this crisis, the MLC has helped disseminate the latest information and operational practices to manufacturers, while also helping them learn from each other and show other sectors how to move forward safely.

NAM Presses SBA on PPP Guidance

Today, the NAM asked the Small Business Administration to provide more clarity on its employee headcount standard and to reconsider the newly announced methodology for determining eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program. We also encouraged the SBA to expand its exercise of enforcement discretion for companies that applied for PPP loans based on the previous methodology. We know these issues have caused concern among some of our members, and we're working to resolve them. You can read the full letter to the SBA [here](#).

OSHA Reverses Recordability Requirements

OSHA has announced that employers will have to record positive COVID-19 cases for OSHA recordkeeping purposes if it is determined that the employee contracted it during normal work activities. This is a reversal from previous enforcement policy and will force businesses to make the difficult determination whether an employee contracted COVID-19 at work. The NAM will continue to push for liability protections to ensure manufacturers that take necessary steps to stop the spread at their facilities are not needlessly punished or impacted by bad-faith litigation. OSHA's new policy goes into effect May 26, and you can read more [here](#).

Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility to Launch in June

The Federal Reserve has [announced](#) that the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility will launch on June 17, and the first loan closing date will be June 25. You can learn more about the TALF in an expanded [FAQ document](#) released today.

White House Provides Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery

As you know, the NAM has been a leading advocate for providing regulatory flexibility and relief to businesses dealing with the impact of COVID-19. Yesterday, the White House responded with an executive order directing federal agencies to do just that. The order also directed agencies to ensure businesses—especially small businesses—have the confidence necessary to reopen by providing clear guidance and recognizing the efforts of businesses to comply with often complex regulations. You can read more [here](#).

USDA, FDA Collaborate to Protect U.S. Food Supply Chain Ahead of Peak Harvesting Season

The NAM has been working with the USDA and FDA to ensure that food manufacturers have the guidance they need to harvest and process crops during this pandemic. And yesterday, those two agencies formally announced a memorandum of understanding to help prevent

interruptions at FDA-regulated food facilities, including for fruit and vegetable growers and processors, ahead of the peak harvesting season. The MOU will create a process for the two agencies to coordinate guidance among the federal, state and local governments and to make determinations about circumstances in which the USDA may, if necessary, use its authority under the Defense Production Act. You can read the full MOU [here](#).

Please keep visiting the regularly updated nam.org/coronavirus site for the latest information, including additional operational guidance, our policy plans and resources and an [updated breakdown of state and local orders](#).

Best,

Jay

President and CEO
National Association of Manufacturers