



To Local Enforcement Authority:

As you identify critical businesses needed to remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) strongly encourages can manufacturing be considered a critical business or essential industry. Authorities should consider not only can manufacturing plants as critical but also the metal, coating and transportation suppliers as well.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued "[MEMORANDUM ON IDENTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE](#)" on March 19, 2020, which identifies "food and agriculture" workers as essential.

Under the Food and Agriculture section in the DHS guidance includes food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees including "the production of food packaging and employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution."

During a time when outsized demand for everyday canned foods, beverages and disinfectant products is straining supply chains, can manufacturers need to be able to continue manufacturing iron-clad containers that supply quality food and sanitizing products to American consumers. The more than 22,000 can manufacturer employees take great pride in producing durable metal containers for nutritious, affordable, safe and accessible foods and beverages.

CMI asks that can manufacturing and their suppliers be on every list of critical or essential business to alleviate any additional concerns U.S. consumers may have with their dire need of canned products as they self-quarantine during this crisis.

Sincerely,

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