April 1, 2020

AEM recognizes the immense impact that the current COVID-19 pandemic is having on our member companies, their employees, suppliers and customers, as well as partner sectors such as agriculture and construction. We are working closely with the U.S. Congress, the Trump Administration, and state and local governments to make sure they take the necessary legislative and administrative steps to mitigate the harm that the crisis is having on equipment manufacturers. Our top priority is focused on ensuring the health and safety of our member companies, their employees, our staff, and our partners.

Here are some of the latest developments:

**AEM Urges Congressional Leadership to Include Infrastructure in “Phase Four” COVID-19 Legislation**
Today, AEM sent a letter to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and U.S. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) urging them to include major new infrastructure investment in the next government relief package. Over the past few days, Congressional leadership and the White House have signaled strong support for leveraging infrastructure investment in an effort to help the country recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. AEM will continue to work closely with state and federal elected officials as they craft the next government relief package to ensure that our industry’s priorities are included.

**COVID-19 Pandemic: Workplace Health & Safety**
AEM has created a new resource for member companies that provides guidance on best practices about workplace health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The resource incorporates guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and it highlights what employers can do to protect their employees from the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring the continuity of business operations.

**Treasury Dept. Issues Release on Payment Protection Program**
The U.S. Treasury Department released new information about its new $349 billion Paycheck Protection Program in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The release includes links to updated pages on Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

**State Activities**
AEM is monitoring activities taken by Governors as they continue to issue closure orders and other guidance, and we are in close contact with their staff to make the case that our industry should be deemed “essential.”
Notable for today’s update is that the Governor of Florida issued a state-wide shelter in place order, the Governors of Illinois, Louisiana, and Massachusetts extended the duration of previous stay at home orders, and the Governor of Minnesota published additional guidance on essential businesses. The map below summarizes each state’s status. For all of the latest information, please visit our dedicated state by state tracker.

Many states have implemented initiatives that halt various economic activities

Business-related state mitigation strategies

AS OF APRIL 1, 2020

Stay-at-home orders/advisories  Closed bars and/or restaurants  Closed non-essential businesses

Canada Activities
AEM is supporting member companies in Canada as they are navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, including ongoing engagement with federal and provincial lawmakers to make sure that our industry is deemed “essential.”

Notable for today’s update is that yesterday Prime Minister Justin Trudeau provided an update on the federal government’s progress in partnering with manufacturers and private sector businesses to secure necessary medical equipment and personal protective equipment. The Prime Minister announced the signing of procurement agreements, and thanked companies that have donated personal protective and safety equipment. Finance Minister Bill Morneau, alongside the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary Ng and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Navdeep Bains are set to hold a press conference this afternoon to announce the details of the Temporary Wage Subsidy. Parliament will be recalled to pass legislation to implement this program.

On the provincial level, Ontario and Quebec have implemented further restrictions on movement and activities, while Alberta and Manitoba have unveiled their lists of essential workplaces which include most manufacturing businesses.
Click here to view the latest updates from each province.

Do you have questions or need to get a hold of AEM’s Advocacy Team? E-mail our Response Ream at responseteam@aem.org with any questions or feedback.
As always, if you have any questions about AEM’s ongoing efforts, need assistance with a specific issue, or would like to share how the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic is impacting your business, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at keideberg@aem.org.
Best,
-Kip

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