April 3, 2020

While Congress is already looking ahead to a “phase four” coronavirus relief package, AEM continues to focus on the quick implementation of many of the “phase three” CARES Act provisions and is working to bring you the best resources and information to help you navigate these challenging times. With that in mind, AEM is hosting a special webinar on the Paycheck Protection Program with experts leading accounting and advisory firm Grant Thornton LLP. Please see below for details and how to join.

Here are some of the other latest developments:

**Congress Looks Ahead to “Phase Four” Coronavirus Relief Package**

Congress is out of session until April 20 at the earliest, but lawmakers are already planning for a “phase four” coronavirus relief package. AEM continues to urge Congressional leadership and the Trump administration to include infrastructure investment in the next stimulus bill. Earlier this week Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.) joined Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.) of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on a press conference call to discuss infrastructure priorities in their respective committees for the “phase four” coronavirus legislative response package. These priorities build on the “Moving Forward on Infrastructure Framework” that Democrats unveiled in January. President Trump also expressed support for including infrastructure in the next coronavirus relief bill. However, Speaker Pelosi appeared to suggest that the next relief package will need to extend the provisions of the CARES Act, provide more funds for small businesses, and additional aid to individuals, and that infrastructure may need to wait until “phase five.” Meanwhile, and further complicating the prospects for infrastructure investment, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has indicated that he will not quickly pass a “phase four” coronavirus bill. AEM will continue to press lawmakers on the need for infrastructure investment as part of the next phase of the federal response, and will submit specific policy recommendations in the weeks ahead.

**AEM WEBINAR: Navigating the CARES Act: How to Get Small Business and Tax Relief Out of Washington (Tuesday, April 7 at 2 PM ET)**

Join AEM and experts from leading independent audit, tax, and advisory firm Grant Thornton LLP for an overview of the new Paycheck Protection Program (created under the CARES Act to help small businesses continue to make payroll, as well as cover expenses to keep the lights on). The webinar will feature Doug Criscitello, Managing Director, Public Sector, Grant Thornton LLP and Omair Taher, Senior Associate, Washington National Tax Office, Grant Thornton LLP. Please click here for information and to add it to your calendar.

AEM Driving the News
AEM actions are driving news coverage and focusing the nation’s attention on how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting equipment manufacturers and their employees. Today *Bloomberg Businessweek* reported on how the unfolding coronavirus crisis is hitting manufacturing communities across the country, including Husco in Waukesha, Wisconsin. And in case you missed it, last week *Bloomberg* reported on how the coronavirus-fueled chaos in financial markets is impacting McElroy Manufacturing in Tulsa, Oklahoma. AEM will continue to leverage the national media to highlight how the industry is weathering the storm and to highlight our policy priorities.

**OSHA Issues Guidance on Respiratory Protection Amid N95 Shortage**

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued new *Enforcement Guidance for Respiratory Protection and the N95 Shortage Due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19) Pandemic*. This memorandum provides interim guidance to Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) for enforcing the Respiratory Protection standard, 29 CFR § 1910.134, and certain other health standards, with regard to supply shortages of disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirators. Specifically, it outlines enforcement discretion to permit the extended use and reuse of respirators, as well as the use of respirators that are beyond their manufacturer’s recommended shelf life (sometimes referred to as “expired”). This guidance applies in all industries and will also be highlighted on the [OSHA COVID-19 webpage](https://www.osha.gov) shortly.

**State Activities**

AEM has been 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.”

Since our last update, the Governors of Georgia and Tennessee issued a state-wide stay at home order, the Governors of Delaware and Ohio extended the duration of previous stay at home orders, and the Governors of Colorado, Florida, Michigan and Wisconsin have published additional guidance for business operations. The map below summarizes each state’s status. For all of the latest information, [please visit our dedicated state by state tracker](https://www.aem.org).
Many states have implemented initiatives that halt various economic activities

Business-related state mitigation strategies

AS OF APRIL 3, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stay-at-home orders/advisories</th>
<th>Closed bars and/or restaurants</th>
<th>Closed non-essential businesses</th>
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*States with localities that have stay-at-home advisories

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."

Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the federal government will provide $100 million in funding to national, regional, and local organizations across Canada that are able to reach people and communities experiencing food insecurity. The Deputy Prime Minister, Chrystia Freeland, announced that Canada has notified the United States and Mexico that Canada has completed the domestic ratification process of the new NAFTA. The Canadian government will continue to work with the United States and Mexican governments to determine an ‘entry into force’ date.

The Government of Manitoba has responded to AEM’s correspondence and confirmed that the current Public Health Order outlines that businesses in the manufacturing and production sector can continue to operate. The province has also announced a number of measures to support citizens and businesses.

The Government of Nova Scotia has also announced further measures to support citizens and small businesses.

AEM has assembled an overview of the measures taken by the Canadian government to support businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This resource will be updated periodically.
We continue to update our resources on Canadian activities on AEM’s COVID-19 resources page. You can also click here for the latest updates from Ottawa and all the provinces.

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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