

Homeland Security Includes Wholesalers in Guidance on Critical Infrastructure Workforce

On Thursday the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued guidance related to the critical infrastructure workforce. The guidance follows the updated Coronavirus Guidance for America issued by the President on March 16, 2020. This guidance states that: *“If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule.”*

The attached list (live link) identifies workers who conduct a range of operations and services that are essential to continued critical infrastructure viability. Food and Agriculture is a critical sector, and the guidance specifically calls out *“employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor managed inventory controllers and block chain managers.”* The document is intended as guidance and is not a federal mandate to keep convenience or other retail stores open but does provide important guidance to state and local officials, as well as to industry, on which industries are most integral to communities and the economy.

The guidance is intended to support state, local and industry partners to identify critical infrastructure sectors and the workers needed to keep the American economy functioning. In the guidance, DHS states that functioning critical infrastructure is imperative during the response to the [COVID-19](#) emergency for both public health and safety as well as community well-being.

The full guidance can be found [here](#). For specific questions, members can contact scampagna@capitoldecisions.com or contact the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency directly at CISA.CAT@cisa.dhs.gov.