



## **Statement from the Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association on Continuance of Essential Business Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association (ILMA) supports the States' efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including through the use of emergency declarations, such as "shelter-in-place" orders, that require "non-essential businesses" to cease operations and close. ILMA members' physical operations are "essential" or "life sustaining" and thus far are being allowed to remain open to assist in the current public health emergency.

ILMA's members blend, compound and sell over 25 percent of the United States' automotive lubricants needs and nearly 75 percent of the metalworking fluids utilized in the country. In the current public health emergency, any necessary vehicles – whether automobiles to transport healthcare workers, emergency response vehicles to tend to people, or trucks to deliver foods to grocery stores -- depend on lubricants to operate. Further, agricultural equipment to produce foods and machines to make emergency healthcare items all need lubricants for their operations.

Similarly, gas stations, auto repair shops, trash collection, emergency response, agriculture, food processing, electric and plumbing services and public transportation are among the essential sectors that rely on a steady supply of lubricant products. Lubricants need to be made and delivered to these businesses and service providers to enable them to remain accessible to the public for the length of the current public health emergency.

The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recognizes the importance of lubricants in its [March 19, 2020 memorandum](#), identifying "critical infrastructure industries." ILMA members' operations fall under different categories in the CISA guidance, and thus are among those that CISA recommends remain open as "essential businesses."

The CISA memorandum was cited in the executive order issued by the Governor of California. Executive orders issued by Pennsylvania and New York's Governors echo the CISA memorandum by identifying lubricant manufacturers as "essential" or "life-sustaining" businesses.

ILMA expects more States to issue similar orders, temporarily shuttering non-essential businesses. The Association has asked the National Governors Association, National Association of Counties and the US Conference of Mayors to recommend a uniform approach in any emergency declarations that may be issued.

### **For more information:**

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*Since 1948, the Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association has been the voice of member companies that produce more than a quarter of the nation's automotive lubricants and three-quarters of its metalworking fluids for customers who use their products to improve performance and increase efficiency.*

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