



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE BUSINESSES AND WORKERS AND DESIGNATION OF ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

Authorization of continued unimpeded operations, including travel, related to agriculture-related businesses - production, distribution, and services

1. The United States Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) designates the food and agriculture sector as a critical infrastructure sector whose assets, systems, and networks are considered so vital that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health, or safety.
2. The President's Coronavirus Guidance published on March 16, 2020 (available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/coronavirus-guidelines-america/>) instructs employees of Critical Infrastructure Industries, such as the food and agriculture sector, to maintain normal work patterns during the global coronavirus outbreak. On March 19, 2020 the Department of Homeland Security identified the specific industries that comprise Critical Infrastructure Industries (available at <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>).
3. The Governor's Executive Order No. GA-24, issued on May 21, 2020 (available at https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-24_termination_of_air_travel_restrictions_COVID-19_IMAGE_05-21-20.pdf) terminates all remaining travel restrictions effective immediately and superseded Executive Order No. GA-20, issued on April 27, 2020, which previously modified restrictions to air and roadway travel directed in Executive Order Nos. GA-11 and GA-12. Critical infrastructure includes agricultural production and distribution as well as employees engaged in the service, transportation or manufacture related thereto and the maintenance of equipment related to such production and distribution.
4. This document certifies that the bearer is an essential business, including an agricultural worker and/or food production worker involved in the production of field crops, the manufacture of human food and/or the distribution of agricultural products and other human food through wholesale, retail, auction, market and/or foodservice distribution within a sector; and/or a worker involved in horticulture, including floristry; or the mitigation of diseases and pests through the application of pesticides or herbicides, or a retail or wholesale supplier of clothing and/or specialized garments related to agriculture or ranching that has been designated as critical infrastructure, the continued operation of which is vital for security, national economic security, national public health, and safety.
5. Accordingly, it is appropriate, considering the President of the United States Coronavirus Guidance to allow this worker to proceed unimpeded to and from their place of employ in the state and federal interests of protecting the nation's food supply chain. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Terry Keel, Assistant Commissioner, Texas Department of Agriculture, at (512) 475-0134.

Certified by:

Sid Miller

Commissioner