

Good Morning,

I have received a few questions about “safe passage” letters companies and their employees can use to indicate to law enforcement officials that operations and employee work are essential under federal guidelines and state and local emergency orders.

You may review a document from the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) that describes how these letters can be used and includes a draft letter [here](#). I have also included a draft letter, [here](#), prepared by the American Wood Council (AWC).

It is very important to remember that these letters, should a company decide to use them, **are not required by most, if any, state and local jurisdictions and carry no legal weight**. However, some companies have chosen to use them as a precaution in hopes of minimizing disruptions to operations.

The Hardwood Federation is providing you with the attached for your information and does not constitute legal advice or guidance. However, we did think they may be of interest to some of you and your members. Please feel free to share with your member companies as appropriate for your state or region.

I hope you and your staff are all well and safe during these extraordinary times. We always welcome feedback, questions and ideas. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best,
Dana

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