

Update on our IWCA – White House Clarification Letter for “Essential”

The general consensus is window cleaning, building maintenance, power washing, soft washing, or any cleaning falls under infrastructure in the CISA Document here,

<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>. Specifically, inside Public Works for Residential and Commercial for government buildings and functions as well as critical, “essential” businesses which still need to be open. The Federal Aviation Administration also confirmed this in a note to a window cleaning company. This note may be specific to government buildings, but it also highlights the need for essential businesses and buildings to still require cleaning services. This one is specifically for window cleaning.

“The work you are doing supports “Critical Infrastructure” (as that term is defined under Presidential Policy Directive 21, dated 21 February 2013 and as further described in the 19 March 2020 Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response issued by the Director of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) and as such, is essential business or activity thereby pre-empting state or local restrictions. In the event that any local or state orders are issued that impact the above-enumerated contract(s) it is the FAA’s intention that you use this letter to support any necessary exemption.”

Does a closed business constitute a need or “essential” and does a residence with a homeowner who is not high risk for the virus fit in with “essential”. The basic answer is no. They would not. However, if there is cause to maintain cleanliness and diminish the spread of the virus, then yes. For example; a business is in a high traffic area and keeping the outside glass or façade clean is a need. Or for residential, they have children with asthma.

The White House Secretary said the enforcement will be in the hands of the state police to funnel the ruling for enforceable offenses down to the local police. After each state or city goes into closure or lockdown, State Police Departments go through the CISA document for clarification on all functions which are deemed essential. Uniformity should be close throughout all States, but local orders may not necessarily read exactly like the CISA document this is where clarification is necessary by contacting the local Police Department. The IWCA will continue to make calls to State Police throughout the US, Canada, UK, Europe, and Australia as a continued effort to help answer questions.

Summary: Reach out to your local counties or cities police department for clarification of enforcement where necessary.

Should you remain open and providing services, it is up to your customers to continue service or not. Leave it up to them. The safety of all those involved is most important. Your team needs to be trained on proper hygiene, awareness of their own health and not coming in when they are sick, using proper PPE, utilizing proper precautions such as one person per vehicle, cleaning outsides only, mobile payments, and mobile estimates to reduce hand to hand exchange as well as monitoring the six foot rule for social distancing.

Should you not feel you can do those things to keep yourself safe, your employees, and the public from spreading the virus, please do not continue to provide service. In the case where you need to close, you still have a duty to your employees to train them on how to stay healthy or direct them to proper resources with the Center for Disease Control on proper precautions. You should also help them fill out paperwork for unemployment and other such items which may keep them protected financially through this time. This goes a long way to bringing them back after this and showing them, you care. Think about touching base a few times a week or once a week to see how your team is doing. They take care of you throughout the year so you can lead and direct. Now is the time to give back to them in any way you can. We think you'll find as you do this, it will also help keep you calm and positive as we all fight through this together.

Continue to be positive and keep working. You can continue marketing and checking on your customers at this time. We also recommend reducing expenses as much as you can right now and checking into deferments on payments, rent, loans, or any other bills you have right now to weather through this in the most efficient manner.

Resources:

<https://www.iwca.org/iwca-request-clarification-statement-from-the-white-house-on-essential/>

<https://www.iwca.org/covid19-resources-for-employers-employees-and-families/>

<https://www.iwca.org/covid19-resource-suppliers/>

If you have questions about any state, reach out to us, info@iwca.org or drop a message to us on Facebook or Instagram and we will let you know what we know. We also have a team of board and committee members willing to talk through their processes right now in their own offices. Some have closed, some have reduced their work force, and some are still working away in full force. These folks are in this with you and can help answer any questions you have for them.

Sincerely,

The IWCA Board