



## **Statement from IPANA Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic and Continuance of Essential Business Operations including Package Testing**

The Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA) members and their suppliers are manufacturers of new industrial packaging and will continue their operations during the COVID-19 pandemic as “Essential Business” under the most recent executive orders issued by various states and municipalities. For example, both Pennsylvania and New Jersey (EO-104) have specifically listed industrial packaging manufacturing as “essential” or exempt from the closure of their operations. An order was also issued by Alameda County on March 16, 2020 [\*New Order Directing Individuals to Shelter at Home Except to Provide or Receive Essential or Engage in Essential Activities\*](#) that will allow members to continue their operations as “Essential Business” under Section 10.

IPANA members supply and test packaging that is used to transport and store goods that are part of the critical manufacturing sector supply chain as designated by the [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#). Packaging Testing agencies, such as TEN-E Packaging Services, Inc. perform a critical function in the packaging supply chain by providing federally mandated testing for packaging for essential items such as food, healthcare products, energy and chemicals. Many of these products are classified as “Dangerous Goods” by the United States Department of Transportation which mandates that these items be shipped and stored in the following types of certified packaging:

- IBC and FIBC designs
- Drums, Jerricans and Composite designs
- Combination Packaging
- Infectious Substance Packaging designs (both Category A & B)
- Class 7 – Radioactive Packaging designs (for the Radiopharmaceutical market)
- Medical Device batteries
- Packaging of the Department of Defense

Specifically, The Department of Transportation and Department of Defense require periodic and design testing to be performed on these types of packaging in order to ensure the safety of these critical materials in transportation and storage. The Department of Transportation has not waived these testing requirements. TEN-E Packaging Services is a DOT approved UN Third Party Test Lab with three locations designated +AA, +CC & +CQ (copy attached). Without tested and certified packaging, the essential items listed by the DHS could not be provided to these sectors.

For this reason, IPANA members, and specifically packaging testing agencies such as TEN-E, are “essential business services” within the meaning of all COVID-19 executive orders issued to date by the various state and local municipalities.

*The Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA) is the primary association representing the interests of manufacturers of new industrial packaging and their suppliers in North America. Its goals include raising the visibility of industrial packaging and emphasizing its importance in the safe and reliable transport of goods throughout North America and the world. Its formation is a leap forward for manufacturers and suppliers interested in establishing a formidable resource to advance the industrial packaging industry, promote technological developments that improve product safety and reliability, and assure that domestic and international regulations are reasonable and necessary.*

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