GCCA Update on COVID-19

August 6, 2020
Phone lines are muted throughout the broadcast.

Please ask questions using the “Questions” panel in your GoToWebinar toolbar.

We will hold questions until the end of the webinar and will answer as many questions as time permits.

This session is being recorded and will be made available to all members following the broadcast.
Speakers and Moderator

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Agenda

• Regulatory and Governmental Updates
• GCCA Recovery Guide and Resources
• Upcoming Events
• Q&A
Next COVID Relief Package

• White House negotiators have expressed their desire to have negotiations completed this week to allow for a vote next week
• Deep partisan divisions, and parties are struggling to reach consensus
• Some Senators calling for cancellation of August recess if compromise not reached
• Some Key Provisions being debated:
  • Liability protection
  • How to handle federal unemployment policy (Trump threatening Executive Order)
  • Eviction protection
  • Employee retention tax credit
  • Support for essential workers
  • Direct payments to Americans
  • Additional PPP funding
  • Funding for schools
  • Funding for states
  • Testing/contact tracing
  • SNAP program
S. 4317- SAFE TO WORK Act

• Introduced by Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas)
• Bill contains timely, targeted and temporary liability relief provisions
• Would require a plaintiff to prove by clear and convincing evidence that an individual or business: (1) failed to make reasonable efforts to comply with applicable government standards and guidance at the time of the alleged exposure; and (2) engaged in gross negligence or willful misconduct that caused an actual exposure to COVID-19 which resulted in injury to the plaintiff.
• GCCA has signed a coalition letter supporting this legislation
HR 7528 - Get America Back to Work Act

• Introduced in the House by Congressmen Graves (R-GA) and Cueller (D-TX)
• Designed to address the issue of liability during the COVID-19 pandemic
• Limits liability for those employers “acting in good faith” to comply with guidelines from public health authorities
• No protection is offered to those employers who may act with “gross negligence” or engage in “reckless misconduct” with “flagrant indifference” to safety
• Includes Federal pre-emption and would be retroactive to beginning of pandemic
• GCCA has signed a letter of support for this bill, along with other industry partners
Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA)

Manufacturers and small businesses such as members of GCCA that are trying to follow the rules need the peace of mind that they won't face unfair legal fees. It's time to pass bipartisan safe harbor protections to secure our economic recovery. #RecoveryforUS #coldchain

SECURE OUR RECOVERY.
Protect businesses working to do the right thing from opportunistic lawsuits. #RecoveryforUS

MANUFACTURERS DESERVE PROTECTION
Meeting the needs, following guidelines, protecting employees. #RecoveryforUS
S. 4213: FRNT LINE Act – Tax Relief for Essential Workers

- Acronym stands for: Financial Relief Noting The Large Impact Of Our Nation’s Essential Employees
- Introduced by Senator Ernst (R-IA)
- Will provide tax relief to essential workers, including those who work in the food and agriculture sectors
- Will also provide payroll tax relief by suspending federal payroll taxes to essential workers who earn up to $50,000 annually
- GCCA has signed a letter of support for this bill, along with 26 other industry partners
HR. 7777- Paycheck Protection Program Small Business Forgiveness Act

- Bipartisan bill introduced in House; S. 4117 equivalent bill introduced previously in Senate

- Forgive PPP loans of less than $150,000 upon the borrower’s completion of a simple, one-page forgiveness document.

- PPP loans of $150,000 and under account for 85 percent of total PPP recipients, but less than 26 percent of PPP loan dollars.

- Expediting the loan forgiveness process for many of these hard-hit businesses will save more than $7 billion dollars and hours of paperwork.

- GCCA part of coalition supporting the effort
Coalition Letter to Congress: Restore Tax-Free Loan Forgiveness Under the PPP

• GCCA, along with 171 other organizations, signed a letter to Congress on August 4th asking for Congress to address the tax treatment of loan forgiveness under the PPP

• Under the CARES act, PPP recipients were eligible for forgiveness of indebtedness for amounts equal to certain payroll, mortgage interest, rent, and utility payments made during a prescribed period, with any resulting cancelled indebtedness excluded from the borrower’s taxable income

• IRS Notice 2020-32 overturned this statute

• Letter asks for restoration of the exclusion of loan forgiveness amounts from the borrower’s taxable income
Bipartisan bill introduced in Senate
Forgive PPP loans of less than $150,000 upon the borrower’s completion of a simple, one-page forgiveness document.
PPP loans of $150,000 and under account for 85 percent of total PPP recipients, but less than 26 percent of PPP loan dollars.
Expediting the loan forgiveness process for many of these hard-hit businesses will save more than $7 billion dollars and hours of paperwork.
GCCA part of coalition supporting the effort
Paycheck Protection Program Policy Update

• On Tuesday August 4th, the Small Business Administration and the Treasury Department released additional guidance on the PPP, *Frequently Asked Questions for Loan Forgiveness*

• FAQs include information on general loan forgiveness, loan forgiveness payroll costs, loan forgiveness non-payroll costs, and loan forgiveness reductions
IRS Guidance Released on Employment Tax Credits Under COVID Relief Bills

• The regulations authorize the assessment of erroneous refunds of the credits paid under both the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Families First Act) and Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

• The IRS has revised or is in the process of revising the Form 941, Form 943, Form 944 and Form CT-1, so that employers may use these returns to claim the paid sick and family leave and employee retention credits.
FDA Guidance on Returned Exports

• Owners of U.S. Goods Returned from export destinations can anticipate the returned shipment will be handled following routine U.S. admissibility procedures. Current scientific information indicates that neither food nor its packaging presents a public health risk for the spread of COVID-19. **The FDA therefore does not intend to routinely conduct field examinations or sampling of FDA-regulated food or its packaging in situations where U.S. Goods Returned were refused entry into trading economies solely based on COVID-19.** FDA may examine and detain the returned articles at its discretion if other reasons exist for the trading economy’s rejection of the shipment or if FDA has independent concerns.

Virginia Department of Labor and Industry Coronavirus Safety Rules

• Effective July 27, 2020
• Written infectious disease preparedness and response plan and the training component related to such plans will take effect sixty (60) days after the ETS effective date, on September 25, 2020
• All other training requirements will take effect thirty (30) days after the ETS effective date, on August 26, 2020.
• The temporary standard will remain in effect for six months and then will automatically expire unless it’s replaced by a permanent regulation.
• Compliance assistance resources: https://www.doli.virginia.gov/covid-19-outreach-education-and-training/
GCCA Named OSHA Alliance Ambassador

Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA)
4,587 followers

We are very proud to be named an OSHA Alliance Ambassador and look forward to continuing to work closely with OSHA on various projects to advance our shared priority of improving safety. Read: https://bit.ly/3gyp1yi

This designation recognizes our industry’s commitment to safety and will enable us to work even more closely with the agency to develop compliance assistance tools and resources and share information with workers and employers. #coldchain #employeesafety #logistics #3PL
GCCA Virtual Policy Forum

- Featured educational sessions focused on the rules and regulations that directly impact the industry
  - OSHA, EPA, FDA and FSIS
  - COVID implications
- Session recordings and slides now available on the GCCA website
COVID-19 Business Impact Survey

• First of its kind research into the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the cold chain industry

• Full report is available on the GCCA website

• Follow up to GCCA COVID-19 Rapid Response Guide
• Version 2 released June 22, 2020
• Guides businesses through two stages of recovery:
  • Bringing your workforce back on-site
  • Ensuring continued safety and well-being
Tracking Reopening State-by-State

- National Governors Association (NGA)
- Interactive map tracking metrics such as:
  - Mask orders
  - Allowable gathering sizes
  - Interstate travel restrictions
  - Stay at home orders
GCCA Resources

- WFLO Scientific Advisory Council
- GCCA Online Communities
GCCA Cold Chain Essentials Virtual Learning Series

• Beginning in September, GCCA will be presenting a new, affordable virtual learning series aimed at delivering essential content for individuals of all levels of the global GCCA membership.

• Education activities will be divided into tracks based on topic areas, including:
  • Essentials for the Cold Chain
  • C-Suite
  • Facility Operations
  • Engineering and Construction
  • Supply Chain and Transportation
  • Customer Engagement
  • Cold Chain Innovation
QUESTIONS?

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