

February 10, 2021

Honourable Bill Blair P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Re: Quarantine Exemptions for Essential Manufacturing Workers

Dear Minister Blair:

On behalf of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, and Canada's 90,000 manufacturers and their 1.7 million employees, I write to urge you to uphold current exemptions from mandatory quarantine for critical infrastructure manufacturing workers who enter Canada to perform essential work.

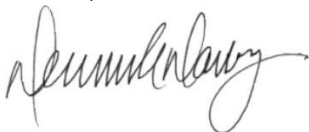
Canadian manufacturers have been at the forefront of the economic response to the pandemic. Thousands of companies answered the Prime Minister's call and retooled their production lines to make goods needed to fight the crisis. And, this was all achieved under tight, but warranted, travel restrictions.

As you know, manufacturing is part of Canada's critical infrastructure, and accordingly, has been provided exemptions from mandatory quarantine rules for workers entering Canada from abroad. These exemptions have been critical to manufacturers continuing their operations during the pandemic.

The recently announced requirement for non-essential travellers to take a COVID-19 test upon arrival and wait three days in a designated hotel for the results, and new testing requirements for land border crossings, are causing concern in industry. While the government has made it clear that this is intended for non-essential travelers, the lack of detail is driving this worry. We therefore request that critical infrastructure worker exemptions be maintained, and that the details be released as soon as possible to halt this confusion for industry, border officials, and the general public.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and would like to schedule a meeting with to discuss these concerns. My staff will follow up with your office to schedule this meeting.

Sincerely,



Dennis A. Darby, P. Eng., ICD.D
President & CEO
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters