

Updated Guidance Document

The Department of Homeland Security has released an [updated guidance document](#) that makes corrections to the list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce under the food and ag sector to ensure it includes renderers and retail stores, outside of grocery stores, that sell animal feed and pet food.

The specific areas defining critical food and agriculture workers is below (new text is underlined):

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies, convenience stores and other retail establishments that sells **human food, animal/pet food** and beverage products;
- Restaurant carry-out and quick-serve food operations – carry-out and delivery food employees;
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees – to include those employed in food processing (e.g., packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry and seafood slaughter facilities; **pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging;**
- Farm workers to include those employed in **animal food, feed and ingredient production, packaging and distribution**; manufacturing, packaging and the distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce the U.S. food supply domestically;
- Farm workers and support service workers to include those who field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs;
- **Employees and firms supporting food, feed and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers**, vendor-managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers;
- Workers supporting the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail;
- Company cafeterias – in-plant cafeterias used to feed employees;
- Workers in food testing labs in private industries and in institutions of higher education;
- Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments;
- **Employees of companies engaged in the production, storage, transport and distribution of chemicals, medicines, vaccines and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments and other agricultural production aids;**
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health; manufacturing and the distribution of animal medical materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, **feed ingredients, feed and bedding**, etc.; transportation of live animals, animal medical materials; transportation of deceased animals for disposal; raising of animals for food; animal production operations; slaughter and packing plants, **renderers** and associated regulatory and government workforce;

- Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper and other wood products; and
- **Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment** and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution.