

NORTH ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

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JOSEPH BYRNE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - TREASURER

April 16, 2020

Dear Construction Industry Partners:

On April 6th, the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters directed its members to cease working on construction sites in Massachusetts based on its determination that at the current stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not safe for its members to be working. Since the Council took that action, it has heard from many of its industry partners who expressed their commitment to taking the necessary steps to ensure that their jobsites are safe, including, but not limited to conducting appropriate training and education of the workforce as to COVID-19, conducting daily health assessments of the workforce, establishing and maintaining social distancing, providing adequate personal protective equipment and providing adequate hygiene on the construction sites.

While the COVID-19 crisis has not abated in Massachusetts, the Council believes that its contractors are committed to implementing safe work practices for construction sites, and for that reason, effective April 21st, the Council will advise its members that they will not be directed to cease working on what have been classified as "essential services". Essential services include the construction of health care facilities, public works, infrastructure, schools, housing, roads, and bridges.

I want to clarify what the Council's position is not. It is not a directive or order for its members to return to work. Many of the Council's members have concerns over their own health and safety and the health and safety of their families, and do not feel safe going to work at this stage of the COVID-19 crisis in Massachusetts. The Council respects those concerns and expects that all of its signatory contractors will respect them too. The Council expects that employers will not retaliate against any carpenter who declines to work due to those concerns, including not opposing or interfering with a carpenter's right under the CARES Act and Massachusetts law to receive unemployment benefits for a COVID-19 related reason. The Council is requesting that you indicate your acceptance of this by email to Steve Joyce at Contractor Relations (sjoyce@nasrcc.org).

In addition, the Council expects every contractor to provide it with a copy of the COVID-19 jobsite protocols for each of its jobs prior to April 21st, in order that the Council can review them and determine if they are satisfactory. The Council is requesting that you send your COVID-19 safety protocols to the Regional Managers in the area where the job is located: Boston- Rich PEDI at rpedi@nasrcc.org; Northeastern & Metro West- Harry Dow at hdow@nasclmp.org; Southeastern MA- Dennis Lassige at dlassige@nasrcc.org; Central & Western MA- Dave Minasian at dminasian@nasrcc.org. If the safety measures are not adequate, or they are not implemented and enforced on the jobsite, the Council will exercise its right to direct its members to not go to work or to cease working on that jobsite.

It is the Council's hope that by working cooperatively with our signatory contractors, we can resume construction activity in a safe manner, recognizing that it will not be at the level of activity that we experienced before COVID-19.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Byrne
Executive Secretary-Treasurer