

27 March 2020

Mr. Amit Shah
Honorable Home Minister of India
Ministry of Home
Government of India

Dear Honorable Home Minister Sir,

Sub: Providing the Testing Inspection and Certification sector the necessary conditions to assist the fight against COVID-19 in India

At the outset, TIC Council, representing the independent testing, inspection and certification (TIC) organizations, would like to compliment the Government of India and State Authorities for a robust and swift response to the health crisis caused by COVID-19.

Sir, we would like to make a humble submission for your kind consideration and necessary action, to support our members to ensure that they can operate throughout this crisis, as they provide essential services that are critical in this fight.

Our members, having pan India presence test, inspect, audit and certify the conformity of pharmaceutical products, medical devices, and other healthcare protective equipment according to relevant domestic & international standards. This for example, includes testing different types of 1] Drugs, formulations and essential supplements 2] Agri commodities, processed and packaged foods 3] Medical devices & equipment which includes masks, ventilators, testing kits and several critical diagnostics medical equipment against international and domestic safety compliance requirements.

Moreover, our members also test, audit, inspect and certify essential sectors of industrial production and transport, such as consumer, commodities, petroleum and petrochemical products, etc. They also audit and inspect critical infrastructures (such as refineries, process plants, and others, incl. hazardous locations), mineral and ores, power plants (Renewables and conventional), raw material and installed products, pipelines, gas stations and buildings for fire safety and other safety measures. As such, our services support the continuity of such operations, including supply chains for essential products, in safe conditions both for employees and the general public.

Our sector is adapting to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For example, our members are offering the possibility of remote inspections to maintain continuity of safety and health compliance. Nevertheless, these adjustments are not always possible. In most cases laboratory testing and site inspections are crucial. However, under the current circumstances they are not possible due to restrictions and lockdown. With TIC companies unable deliver their services, several manufacturers of essential good and services including importers, utilities, power distribution companies and telecom & internet are facing significant challenges with smooth operation. This may jeopardize the availability of essential goods & services at this crucial juncture.

Our members engaged in Testing, Inspection, audits and Certification, are an integral part of the supply chain of essential products & services. Our members work relentlessly with Manufacturers and other stakeholders to ensure that production of goods & delivery of services meet the robust quality standards to ensure consumer & patient safety. We believe at present, when the demand for essential services and goods is at its peak the need for testing, inspection and certification is of paramount importance to have robust safety

measures for public safety. Our sector's services are also critical part of re-establishing business continuity after the crisis.

We TIC Council members would like to make following submission:

- that the testing, inspection, audit and certification companies be allowed to continue their activities as they support the essential sectors of the economy that continue functioning at present
- that their business partners providing services to them for critical maintenance, lab supplies, transportation to their staff etc be also permitted to operate for ensuring continuity in supply chain management of essential services supported by these companies
- that respective Ministries be advised to issue communication and notifications in this regard.
- that required communication be issued to all states including Chief Secretaries, District Magistrates, Municipal and Police Commissioners, Labour authorities and other local statutory authorities, for smooth functioning

We stand at your disposal for discussing our specific suggestions over a videoconference.

We trust the above will merit due consideration by the Government of India.

With Highest regards,

Suresh Sugavanam
Chairman, TIC Council India

Annexure: About TIC Council India [Society registered under Societies Act Registration Number HR/018/2019/02441]

CC: Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India -Prime Minister Office –
CC: Cabinet Secretary
CC: Principal Scientific Advisor to Prime Minister of India
CC: Member NITI Aayog
CC: Secretary Home
CC: Secretary Ministry of Consumer Affairs
CC: Chairman Quality Council of India
CC: Secretary General Quality Council of India
CC: CEO NABL
CC: CEO NABCB

About TIC Council

The TIC Council is the voice of the Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) industry which was launched in December 2018. Born from the merger of former global TIC industry organizations IFIA and CEOC, the TIC Council brings together more than 90 member companies and organizations from around the world to speak with one voice.

The TIC Council engages governments and key stakeholders to advocate for effective solutions that protect the public, facilitate trade and support innovation. With the expertise and competence of its members, the TIC Council is a valuable resource to policy-makers around the world on how the use of TIC services brings value to society, promoting best practices in safety, quality, health, ethics and sustainability. The TIC Council supports the development of international standards and regulations that protect consumers without hindering innovation or adding unnecessary burden on industry. Moreover, all members of the TIC Council are committed to the highest standards of ethics and integrity as TIC Council membership requires the mandatory implementation of a compliance code annually verified by an external audit.

The TIC Council membership gathers a vast technical expertise and know-how from the most traditional industries such as industrial or commodities inspection, products testing and certification to emerging technologies such as blockchain, cybersecurity or IoT. The TIC Council members are committed to using this know-how to help governments protect health, safety and the environment, manufacturers to thrive in a complex global trade landscape and consumers to have the assurance that the product they are purchasing are safe for them and their families.

India Chapter: TIC Council India Steering Committee Members

Sl. No.	Name	
1	Suresh Sugavanam, Vice-President & Managing Director UL South Asia & Sub-Saharan Africa	Chairman
2	Madhumita Guha, Director Marketing, Intertek Testing Service Pvt Ltd	Vice-Chair
3	Maramot Cresenciano Gutierrez, Managing Director SGS India Pvt Ltd	Steering Committee Member
4	Amit Ghosh, Senior Vice-President, Bureau Veritas South Asia	Steering Committee Member
5	Surangan Bhattacharya, Director-Country Manager, Baltic Control India	Steering Committee Member
6	Vishal Nerurkar, Vice-President, TUV-SUD South Asia	Steering Committee Member
7	Charan Singh, Vice-President Head TUV-Rheinland - Emerging Markets	Steering Committee Member
8	Ram Prasad Vodela, Head Certifications, RINA India	Steering Committee Member
9	Manish Bhuptani, Managing Director, TUV Nord India	Steering Committee Member
10	Sudhir Gupta, Managing Director, Cotecna India	Steering Committee Member
11	Deepak Sahay, Managing Director India, Dekra	Steering Committee Member

Society Registered under Societies Act 2012 under Registration number
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