

March 24, 2020

Re: The value of the Independent testing, inspection and certification (TIC) sector in the fight against COVID-19

The TIC Council, representing the independent testing, inspection and certification (TIC) sector would like to thank the U.S. authorities for their leadership in implementing measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. The TIC sector has been playing a critical role throughout this health crisis as the services they provide help **ensure that supply chains of essential critical infrastructure** continue to work.

Our members audit, test, inspect and certify the conformity of pharmaceutical and medical laboratories. They also play an integral part in assuring that medical devices and protective equipment, from masks and respirators to electrical medical diagnostics equipment, comply with the appropriate safety and health requirements specified in regulations through the use of relevant standards.

Moreover, our members audit, test, inspect and certify other essential critical infrastructure sectors of the economy including telecommunications, information technology systems, defense, food and agriculture, transportation and logistics, energy, water and wastewater, law enforcement, public works, and commodities transport. As such, our members' services related to export and import of goods ensure that supply chains are not disrupted and help mitigate potential impact on the lives of US citizens.

Our sector is adapting the services it provides to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For example, our members are working with appropriate regulatory authorities to provide services such as remote inspections to maintain continuity of safety and health compliance and to address business continuity.

Continuing to deliver our essential services is the best way for the TIC sector to contribute to addressing the safety and health issues of the COVID-19 crisis while helping to minimize its financial impact to the US economy.

Thank you for your time and attention and we stand at your disposal for discussing this further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanane Taidi'.

Hanane Taidi
Director General
TIC Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberta Telles'.

Roberta Telles
Executive Director
TIC Council Americas