

OPEN LETTER

March 20th, 2020

Key workers in the supply chain during COVID-19:

An open letter to UK Government

By UK pallet and packaging/forest-based industries

As a timber packaging and pallet/forest-based business, we write to stress in the strongest terms the importance of including supply chain personnel in the Government's definition of key workers, during the COVID-19 crisis.

The European Commission (EC) stated this week that, while protecting the health of European citizens, we must also ensure that they still have access to essential goods, especially food and medicines, demand for which is currently incredibly high.

To do this, we absolutely need workers to be free to carry out the physical work that supports supply chains. This includes pallet repairers and manufacturers, and drivers of lorries and forklifts.

These people cannot work from home. We need them to be there in person to keep goods moving from origin to consumers.

If this doesn't happen, the pharmaceutical, food and drink supply chains upon which people rely, will fail.

With schools across the UK and Ireland now shut, we need assurance these staff will be included on the Government's key worker as a matter of urgency.

Signed: _____

Company: _____