



THE INTERNATIONAL
FRAGRANCE ASSOCIATION

IFRA statement – 23 March 2020

The fragrance industry urges governments to recognize essential role of sector in fight against coronavirus

Key role in supply chain qualifies fragrance manufacturing as ‘critical infrastructure’

The global fragrance industry calls on governments to include factories manufacturing fragrance as ‘critical infrastructure’ or ‘essential business’ in combating the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and therefore exempt these facilities from measures that would restrict access to employees and close operations.

The fragrance industry, represented by The International Fragrance Association, highlights the following needs being met by the industry during this pandemic, which cannot be done remotely, and which require the day-to-day presence of specialist personnel:

- ≡ Fragrance companies are **producing essential components for sanitary, hygiene and disinfecting products**, which are recognized as vital products in combating viral pathogens. The presence of fragrance in cleaning products, soaps and other essential personal care items has been shown to encourage product use, therefore maintaining good cleanliness and hygiene – which are crucial in slowing the spread of the virus. Interrupting fragrance manufacturing at this time would cut the supply chain to producers of finished goods, reducing supply when demand has dramatically increased.
- ≡ Many fragrance companies are **manufacturing hydroalcoholic gels** that supply hospitals, pharmacies, care facilities for the elderly and other premises. These gels are a key tool in combating the transmission of the virus, especially in situations where vulnerable people may be exposed to it.
- ≡ Many factories have **closely connected fragrance and flavor operations**, the latter being vital in securing the food supply chain and considered as critical infrastructure.

IFRA and its members call on governments to ensure that fragrance manufacturing, as part of the chemical industry, is recognised as a key element of the supply chain for essential items. We believe that facilities should be allowed to continue to operate and that, in the event of border closures, essential substances should be able to move across frontiers.

The fragrance industry supports the need for the tough restrictions put in place by governments around the world, including social distancing, in efforts to slow down and eventually stop the spread of COVID-19.

Employees involved in manufacturing are subject to additional measures and protocols that allow them to comply with social distancing rules and minimize the risk of infection.

In line with recommendations put in place with governments around the world, IFRA and its member companies and associations asks all ‘non-essential’ staff who are not directly involved in manufacturing and supply of ingredients to observe local restrictions, practice social distancing, and to work from home.

We stand ready to cooperate with authorities throughout the world in these efforts.





About The International Fragrance Association (IFRA)

The International Fragrance Association, founded in 1973, represents the interests of the fragrance industry worldwide. IFRA comprises seven multinational companies, 21 national associations in four global regions representing hundreds of small and medium-sized fragrance ingredient manufacturers, and eight supporting members. Its mission is to promote the safe use of fragrance for everyone's enjoyment.

Fragrances are a key platform technology used by consumer goods companies – for fine fragrances, personal care products, household care and more.

IFRA's flagship safe use program, the IFRA Standards, applies safety management measures based on scientific assessment and the evaluations of an independent Expert Panel. The program is at the heart of the IFRA Code of Practice, which applies to all IFRA members globally, including members of IFRA's 21 national associations. The Code also requires members to abide by local, national and international regulation, and to apply good manufacturing practices.

For further information, please visit ifrafragrance.org

