

March 26, 2020 – COVID-19 Update

Subject: MA Governor Issues Clarification on Construction Activities as Essential Services

Important Message from Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts:

In response to the urgent plea of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Massachusetts and others, Governor Baker released the letter from his chief legal counsel to municipal chief executive officers providing guidance as to how his March 23, 2020 Executive Order COVID-19 No. 13, intersects with municipal efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis.

The letter states that "the Order provides that all construction projects are to 'continue operations during the state of emergency, but to do so with allowance for social distancing protocols consistent with guidance provided from the Department of Public Health' Local policies, regulations, or directives that provide otherwise are in direct conflict with the Order and should be withdrawn."

Consequently, cities and towns may not impose a ban on construction and may not order work to cease on existing projects. Such actions are in violation of the Emergency Order.

The letter is accompanied by new health and safety that guidelines that must be adhered to for all construction work. "Commonwealth of Massachusetts COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures for All Construction Sites and Workers at All Public Work" sets forth protocols that MUST be implemented at all times on all construction sites. In addition, all construction sites MUST conduct a Safety Stand Down day to disseminate these guidelines to all employees and workers. Those guidelines and procedures can be found [here](#).

A copy of the letter from the governor's chief legal counsel and the guidelines and procedures can be found [here](#). For the safety of all, we encourage you to review and implement these guidelines at all worksites. If the guidelines are not met, the worksite could be shut down as well as jeopardizing the health and safety of employees, their families and the community.

If you're having any trouble getting permits or inspections for any town, please contact us at info@sgtorrice.com. As a member of the Northeast Builders & Remodelers Association of Massachusetts, we can assist you any permit and inspection issues.