



BWI • Building and Wood Workers' International
BHI • Bau- und Holzarbeiter Internationale
BTI • Byggnads- och Träarbetar-Internationalen
IBB • Internationale des Travailleurs du Bâtiment et du Bois
ICM • Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera

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Mr. Kim Carstensen
Director General
FSC International
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Oaxaca, México CP. 68000

By email: k.carstensen@fsc.org

Geneva, 20th March 2020

Dear Kim,

As a member organisation representing workers, I am writing to you in these extraordinary times. To quote Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General "This is no longer only a global health crisis; it is also a major labour market and economic crisis that is having a huge impact on people".

The COVID 19 is global pandemic. We are hearing from our member organisations from all regions about the challenges that they, their members and their companies are facing in dealing with the risks to workers and in implementing the necessary actions to limit the spread of the COVID 19.

We have seen that you have temporarily taken measures to replace the on-site audits of the certified operations by remote or desk audits. We understand the reasons for this, but we think that as a body certifying a standard you also have a responsibility to urge your certificate holders about their responsibility to take measures to minimise the impact on workers and maintain an efficient social dialogue at all levels because, again according to the ILO, that is "essential for quick and effective action."

Certificate holders are committed by the principles and values in your standards to immediate humanitarian and pro-active responses to mitigate the negative impact of COVID 19 on all their workers and the workers of sub-contractors and the supply chain including contract workers and migrant workers in worksites around the world.

We would expect that your communication to the certificate holders outlines important actions that should be included in your response:

- Recognise and bargain with trade unions to identify threats to workers' health, rights and welfare, and to develop and implement workplace responses;
- Recognise and exercise due diligence and duty of care for all workers in their business and supply chains and in contracts with suppliers, prioritising the rights and welfare of these workers in their response to the threats posed by COVID-19;
- Involve workers' representatives in processes to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for COVID-19 threats and in the evaluation of employer and government responses;
- Ensure health protections and plans are in place and are followed without exception;
- Protect wages and full pay for all workers through a variety of means, mutually agreed through collective bargaining;
- Guarantee paid leave, in the form of sick pay or holiday pay, from the first day of leave, for any workers threatened or infected by COVID-19;
- Establish compensation funds for all workers, including those with non-standard forms of employment and work-related contracts, that are adversely impacted by COVID-19 and the responses to it; and,
- Offer customised and responsible workplace and working arrangements for all workers.

Thank you for your consideration. Hope to hear your response soon.

BUILDING AND WOOD WORKERS INTERNATIONAL - BWI

Ambet Yuson
General Secretary

CC: to the Board of Directors Members