



COVID-19: SUPPLIES OF FLOUR MUST GET THROUGH TO CONSUMERS DURING AN PANDEMIC

by COFCO, China

During the prevention and control of COVID-19, the regular supply of emergency goods and materials must be ensured. In the Chinese economic development zone of HaiNing, for example, the COFCO flour industry has a large daily vehicle flow supported by a large number of workers. So, it is very important for the company to do a good job in the service control of each person and each vehicle, in order to win the epidemic war.

At 2pm on February 10th, 2020 in COFCO Flour Industry (HaiNing) Co Ltd, nearly 10 large trucks with out-of-town licenses lined up at the plant. Warehouse workers are busy loading trucks, while the truck drivers are being registered with their real names and workers having their temperatures taken in the company's duty room one-by-one before their trucks are allowed to enter the plant.

COFCO Flour Industry (HaiNing) Co Ltd is the largest flour processing enterprise in Zhejiang Province and processes 2000 tonnes of wheat-per-day, mainly supplying the food processing enterprises in Eastern China.

To ensure normal supply, the company has been back at work since February 4th, 2020 with just 242 employees on-boarding, accounting for half of the total. The company sterilises each vehicle at both the entrance and exit to the compound, along with the dining-room, workshop and other major places twice a day. At the same time, separate meals are served in the dining-room, besides, each employee has to take a temperature test arriving at work and again when leaving work.

It is not only very important to do a great job of internal epidemic prevention, but also to cut off external virus infection, explains Lijun Zhang, the General Manager of COFCO Flour Industry (HaiNing) Co Ltd.

After the company returned to work, an average of about 20 customer pickup trucks enter the plant each day, which is also the company's top priority in the prevention and control of the epidemic.

"Regarding the flow of our bulk commodities, it is very difficult



Above: Chengyuan Wang, the company's Deputy Warehouse Manager, is interviewed on how he supervises trucks entering and returning home from the Haining flour mill

Left: At reception to the flour mill a driver is checked for his temperature before entering and being registered

Below: All major areas at both the entrance and exit of the mill is sterilised twice per day



to manage and control non-local vehicles and drivers," explains Mr Zhang. "However, it is our purpose to continue to supply, without price increase, under the premise of ensuring safety during the outbreak. At the same time, we must also ensure the safety of our employees, and not only the safety of all employees but also the safety of all Haining people and even the safety of all those in Zhejiang province!"

Extra tasks

These days, Chengyuan Wang, the company's deputy warehouse manager, has an extra task on his hands; that is, supervising drives coming into the Haining economic development zone each afternoon in order to unify the handling procedures of the vehicle permits for the transportation of emergency supplies for the next day of customer pickup trucks to be counted out in the morning. "Are the traffic permits on your phone for tomorrow?" asks a reporter, interviewing Mr Wang.

"Yes, after getting a vehicle's permit, we send that vehicle to load flour," he says.

The reporter asks if the driver is restricted from entering Haining without this permit?

"Yes, without a permit he can't make it here," adds Mr Wang.

After each non-local truck is loaded with goods in the plant and leaves the company compound, it is supervised to ensure that it leaves Haining normally.

In mobile conversations with the truck driver Mr Wang asks, "Hello, are you Mr Wen?"

"Yes," comes the reply.

"You just finished loading flour from us 20 minutes ago. Did you get to the Xiashi crossing and onto the highway OK?"

"Just passed the highway intersection, leaving Haining, now," the driver replies.

"OK, keep safe," says Mr Wang who then turns his attention to supervising the next departing truck.