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PRESS RELEASE

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## **INDEX Strengthens Health Programs for Workers and Presents ELSSA Insignia**

The National Council of the Maquiladora and Export Manufacturing Industry (INDEX) and the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) have reinforced a series of health strategies benefiting more than 35,000 workers from INDEX-affiliated companies. These include actions for the detection of chronic degenerative diseases, hepatitis C, HPV, HIV, diabetes, obesity, and mental disorders, among others.

In a significant collaboration between the private and public sectors, INDEX Guanajuato, through its president Alfonso Valdés, who is also the vice president of the organization, representing Humberto Martínez Cantú, the national president, emphasized the shared responsibility of providing better conditions and social security benefits for workers in the Bajío region. This includes ongoing attention and follow-up, contributing to the preventive health strategy for workers.

“What we aim for at INDEX for export companies is to utilize public healthcare in the communities where we are established, primarily in the fight against diseases. Together, we can ensure timely healthcare for workers and focus on prevention. In our companies, we believe that strategies for worker well-being should cover a wide range of factors, such as physical environment, working conditions, child development, and social support networks, among many others,” he stated.

Carlos Palencia, General Director of INDEX Nacional, mentioned that direct employees represent 17% of IMSS-affiliated workers in the sector. Nationwide, there are 6,500 companies involved in sectors like agribusiness and various firms in the Bajío region, where companies in the automotive, auto parts, aerospace, electronics, and medical equipment industries also operate.

He also explained that in 24 states, at least 354 companies operate in manufacturing activities. Specifically in Guanajuato, they provide direct employment to around 192,000 people, making IMMEX the most important sector of the national economy. This is due to their contribution to foreign trade, economic impact through wages and salaries above the national average, and social security contributions and benefits that exceed those defined by law.

During this work tour, IMSS General Secretary Marcos Bucio Mújica, Director of Economic and Social Benefits Mauricio Hernández Ávila, and Head of the Dignified Work Unit at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Alejandro Salafranca Vázquez, met at Gigante Verde with 16 HR directors from major companies in the region associated with the National Council of the Maquiladora and Export Manufacturing

Industry in Bajío (INDEX Guanajuato, Querétaro, and San Luis Potosí). They discussed the collaboration between both organizations.

Later, from the Electric Motors Plant of the automotive company Ford in Irapuato, the ELSSA Insignia (Safe and Healthy Work Environments) were presented to Lear Mexican Trim, Bos Automotive Products Irapuato, American Industries del Centro, Gigante Verde, and Ford Motor Company. This recognition is for workplaces that train workers as monitors and promoters of these actions, aimed at preventing occupational risks, among other benefits.

With the ELSSA program, INDEX and IMSS intend to address the impact of accidents and diseases on the population and productivity of companies. This benefits the care of people and helps companies maintain production and competitiveness levels by providing clarity on treatment and recovery times for employees with health conditions.

Through these and other actions, the export manufacturing industry reaffirms its commitment to workers.