



**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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February 6, 2013

TO: Executive Departments/Agencies
(Excludes University of Hawaii (UH), Department of
Education (DOE) and its Charter Schools, Office of
Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), Hawaii Health Systems
Corporation (HHSC) and its Regional System
Boards and Hospitals)
Judiciary
City and County of Honolulu
(C&C of Honolulu)
County of Maui
County of Kauai
Kauai County Council

FROM: Aaron S. Fujioka
Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron S. Fujioka".

SUBJECT: ***** CAUTIONARY ALERT *****
COMBINATION BALLISTIC AND SPIKE PROTECTIVE VESTS
SPO Vendor List Contract No. 12-16-SW (Notice: 12-16-A)
WCSA BODY ARMOR - STATEWIDE
Expires July 31, 2013
WCSA Contract # 68008YYY15P/WCSA

The State Procurement Office was notified by the Safariland Group and Mr. Jeff Wylde, Lead State of Colorado for the WCSA Body Armor contract, a cautionary alert of Teijin Aramid combination ballistic and spike protective vests.

Teijin Aramid, producers of Microflex spike-resistant fabric has found evidence that when vest manufacturers design a combination ballistic and spike protective vest using a Microflex and ballistic fabric construct, certain chemicals present in the spin finish of the ballistic yarns can migrate onto the Microflex corrections fabric. This may lead to a decrease in spike resistance of the Microflex combination vest construct over time.

Mr. Jeff Wylde checked WCSA sales from Safariland and verified only Utah and Colorado had sales of combination vests. For more information, please read the enclosed notices by the Safariland Group, Teijin Aramid USA and by the National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program.

If you have any questions, please contact Stanton Mato at (808) 586-0566, or stanton.d.mato@hawaii.gov.

Safariland, LLC
3120 East Mission Blvd.
Ontario, CA 91761
909.923.7300



VIA EMAIL

January 30, 2013

RE: NIJ Compliance Testing Program Notice regarding Combination Vests

Dear Valued Customer:

On January 25, 2013, the NIJ Compliance Testing Program issued a notice to manufacturers (the "CTP Memorandum") confirming that Teijin Aramid ("Teijin"), producers of Microflex® spike-resistant fabric, had issued a letter concerning the use of Microflex in combination ballistic/spike armor (the "Teijin Letter"). Attached for your review, The Safariland Group is providing you with a copy of both the Teijin Letter and the CTP Memorandum. In anticipation of some of the questions you may have, at the end of this letter we've also provided you with answers to "Frequently Asked Questions."

According to the Teijin Letter, Teijin recently found evidence that certain chemicals present in the spin finish of ballistic yarns can migrate onto the Microflex corrections fabric in vests designed with combination ballistic and spike protection using Microflex and ballistic fabric. As described by Teijin, "while the migration of the chemicals does not affect the physical structure of the yarns used for Microflex, at least with regard to certain combination vest designs, it appears to lead to a decrease in spike resistance of the Microflex combination vest construct over time."

Based on the CTP Memorandum, The Safariland Group is alerting customers and end-users of the pending evaluation of **all** combination models manufactured and sold by The Safariland Group within the past five years, not just those models using Microflex. Included in the FAQs is a chart that lists the model designation of The Safariland Group combination vest models, along with the identification of the corrections fabric.

As a responsible manufacturer committed to providing only those products that meet our high-quality standards, we are working with our corrections fabric suppliers, Teijin Aramid and DuPont Protection Technologies, to evaluate the potential impact on spike performance. Pending this evaluation, we are holding shipments of current orders. We understand the impact this may have on you so we will report the results of the evaluation as soon as possible.

The Safariland Group recommends that those affected by this notice continue to wear their body armor pending the evaluation as wearing armor is always safer than not wearing any armor at all. Our mission continues to be "Together, We Save Lives". As such, you can be assured that we will take all appropriate action based upon the results of the evaluation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott O'Brien", written over a horizontal line.

Scott O'Brien
President

FAQ's

Q: *What is the issue concerning the use of corrections fabric in combination armor?*

A: According to the Teijin Letter, the issue relates to the certain chemicals present in the spin finish of ballistic yarns that can migrate onto the Microflex corrections fabric. As stated by Teijin, "while the migration of the chemicals does not affect the physical structure of the yarns used for Microflex, at least with regard to certain combination vest designs, it appears to lead to a decrease in spike resistance of the Microflex combination vest construct over time."

The Safariland Group is cooperating with Teijin to review their evidence of the migration of the spin finish onto the Microflex corrections fabric and the potential impact on spike performance with regard to The Safariland Group's combination designs that use Microflex. We will endeavor to communicate additional information regarding our combination models as soon as possible.

Q: *Does the issue raised in the CTP Memorandum impact models that use corrections fabric produced by suppliers other than Teijin?*

A: As requested by the Compliance Testing Program in its memorandum, The Safariland Group will be evaluating all of our combination models, including those models that use corrections fabric other than Microflex. The Safariland Group has reached out to DuPont Protection Technologies, our other supplier of corrections fabric, in order to evaluate combination models designed with DuPont Kevlar® Corrections.

Note that while we are evaluating the models using DuPont Kevlar Corrections fabric, as of this date, we have not received any notification from DuPont Protection Technologies raising any similar concerns regarding the use of their Kevlar Corrections fabric in combination vests.

Q: *Does the issue raised in the CTP Memorandum apply only to The Safariland Group models?*

A: No. The CTP Memorandum was sent to all body armor manufacturers and requires any such manufacturer to determine whether its combination armor models are impacted by the issue.

Q: *Which of The Safariland Group combination vests use corrections fabric?*

A: The following chart lists the model designation of each of The Safariland Group combination vests that use either Teijin Microflex or DuPont Kevlar Corrections fabric:

NIJ Model Designation	NIJ Standard	Threats	Corrections Fabric
<i>MS-3A30S-MT01</i>	<i>NIJ 0101.06 NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 3 (Spike)</i>	<i>Teijin Microflex</i>
<i>MS-2020S-MT21</i>	<i>NIJ 0101.06 NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level II (Ballistic) Performance Level 2 (Spike)</i>	<i>Teijin Microflex</i>

<i>PBIIA/S3.1</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 3 (Spike)</i>	<i>Teijin Microflex</i>
<i>PBIIIA/S1.1</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 1 (Spike)</i>	<i>Teijin Microflex</i>
<i>PB-III A/S3.8</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 3 (Spike)</i>	<i>Teijin Microflex</i>
<i>PBII/S1.2</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level II (Ballistic) Performance Level 1 (Spike)</i>	<i>Teijin Microflex</i>
<i>PBII/S2.2</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level II (Ballistic) Performance Level 2 (Spike)</i>	<i>Teijin Microflex</i>
<i>MS-2A30S-MT21</i>	<i>NIJ 0101.06 NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 3 (Spike)</i>	<i>DuPont Kevlar Corrections</i>
<i>TVSL2+2-2</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level II (Ballistic) Performance Level 2 (Spike)</i>	<i>DuPont Kevlar Corrections</i>
<i>CB-IIA/1-4.0</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 1 (Spike)</i>	<i>DuPont Kevlar Corrections</i>
<i>CBIIA/3-6.4</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 3 (Spike)</i>	<i>DuPont Kevlar Corrections</i>
<i>MON-II +P+ SPK-3 407070</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level II (Ballistic) Performance Level 3 (Spike)</i>	<i>DuPont Kevlar Corrections</i>
<i>MON-II +P+ SPK-2 407070</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level II (Ballistic) Performance Level 2 (Spike)</i>	<i>DuPont Kevlar Corrections</i>
<i>MON-III A +P+ SPK-3 402150</i>	<i>NIJ 2005 IR NIJ 0115.00</i>	<i>Level IIIA (Ballistic) Performance Level 3 (Spike)</i>	<i>DuPont Kevlar Corrections</i>

Q: Does the issue raised in the Compliance Testing Program Memorandum impact Spike-only models?

A: No. According to the Teijin Letter, the issue potentially affects only “combination ballistic and spike protection vests.” Spike-only models that use 100% Microflex are unaffected.

Q: Should officers who are wearing combination models continue to wear their vests?

A: Yes, officers should continue to wear their body armor. We are not aware of any field failures and wearing armor is safer than not wearing any armor at all.

NIJ Compliance Testing Program Notice
Re: Combination Armor
January 30, 2013



Q: *Will you still be accepting orders for combination vests?*

A: Yes, but all orders received will be accepted on the basis that they are subject to a production hold until the receipt of the results of the pending evaluation. Depending upon the results of the evaluation, it is possible that orders may ultimately be cancelled and will not be delivered.

Q: *Will you still be issuing quotes for combination vests?*

A: Yes, but all quotes will be issued on the basis that they are conditioned on the facts contained in the Teijin Letter and the CTP Memorandum, and subject to subsequent receipt by The Safariland Group of a favorable evaluation of the model quoted. If a quote is to be used to respond to an open tender, Customers are strongly urged to specifically notify the agency of the potential issues in their bid submission.



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January 18, 2013

Dear :

Teijin Aramid has recently found evidence that, when vest manufacturers design a combination ballistic and spike protective vest using a Microflex and ballistic fabric construct, certain chemicals present in the spin finish of the ballistic yarns can migrate onto the Microflex corrections fabric. While the migration of the chemicals does not affect the physical structure of the yarns used for Microflex, at least with regard to certain combination vest designs, it appears to lead to a decrease in spike resistance of the Microflex combination vest construct over time.

Based on our initial evaluation, it appears that the extent of any migration and the resulting impact on the combination vest's performance depends on the vest design.

At this point, Teijin Aramid requests your cooperation so that we can evaluate whether this migration concern might impact the performance of your company's combination vests. We would like you to send us, at your earliest convenience, at least one, but preferably three, used combination vests that are at least two years old - or even better, five years old.

To be clear, this issue potentially affects only the combination ballistic and spike protection vests. The performance of 100% Microflex spike protection vests is unaffected. Accordingly, we want to reassure our customers and the law enforcement community that they can rely on Microflex® to perform as specified in these vests.

Please feel free to call me if you want to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

David Carlson
Sales Manager
Ballistics

cc: K. Henke





National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program

A program of the National Institute of Justice

Compliance Testing Program (CTP) Memorandum

To: CTP Participants

Date: Jan. 25, 2013

Teijin Aramid, producers of Microflex[®] spike-resistant fabric, has issued the attached letter to body armor manufacturers concerning the use of Microflex in combination armor. Since this issue has the potential to impact other materials used for combination armors, the NIJ CTP is alerting all current participants in the NIJ CTP who have combination armor on the NIJ CTP Compliant Product List (CPL).

Please determine if any combination armor you have manufactured could be impacted by the inclusion of both stab- and ballistic-resistant material within the same package. This includes both those combination armors using Microflex and those that do not.

If so, please contact the NIJ CTP and provide the following information:

1. How models are affected?
2. How many fielded units are now in service for each model?
3. What course of action will you take?

Please contact the CTP at (800) 248-2742 or by email at bactp@justnet.org if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this issue further. Please direct all calls or correspondence to Alex Sundstrom at the CTP.