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May 21, 2018

Mr. J Jackson
Quincy Fire Department
Quincy, Ma.

Subject: PFOA

Dear J Jackson

Patrick O'Connor of Northeast Rescue and Paul Jacobs of Honeywell First Responders had requested that we write you on our letterhead about whether PFOA's (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) commonly called PFOA or PFOS is in any of our products.

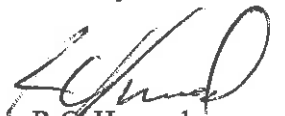
I am pleased to report that the OMNI Synergy quilts that you purchase contain no PFOA's as mentioned above.

The Outer shells, OMNI Vantage and OMNI Elite II, and the new GBX, have a Durable Water repellent finish. Our process did at one time include the PFOA in the manufacturing process as a processing aid. It is possible that trace amounts may have been present as a residue. However, we do not believe they pose any health risks to the Fire Fighter.

I am attaching excerpts of a letter written by a large Turnout gear manufacturer, which takes exception to a recent article critical of turnout gear manufacturers and the use of PFOA's.

Also, we have been working on replacing even the trace amounts of the C 8 with C6 which does not contain any of the PFOA's above. This will be effective by the end of June 2018.

Thank you. Please call me if you have any additional concerns or if you wish to discuss this.


R C Howard
Fire Service Director
Norfab Corp

Cc: Patrick O'Connor-Northeast Rescue
Paul Jacobs- HoneywellFR



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May 11, 2018

Excerpts of the letter from a Turnout Gear Manufacturer

For our Durable Water Repellant finish and to make the textiles (outer shell) a more abrasion resistant garment, all or most of the textile manufacturers use a PTFE for this finish. A key component in the processing contained trace amounts of the PFOA.

“Although PFOA was not a component in the durable water repellent finishes, and because manufacturers (like Norfab) used PFOA in the their manufacturing process as a processing aid. It is possible that trace amounts may have been present as a residue when the finishes were incorporated in the turnout gear. However, based on all available scientific data, such nominal trace amounts, if they existed at all, would not have posed any health risk to the fire fighters. There is absolutely no connection at all between PFOS and firefighter turn out gear.”

Further- “ a study conducted by the University of Ottawa indicates that the elevated risk derives from the hazardous substances produced by the fire; not the turnout gear that protects the fire fighter”