



**NATIONAL
SAFETY APPAREL®**

August 22, 2016

Dear Valued National Safety Apparel Distributor:

This letter is a notification advising our valued NSA Distributors and their customers of a voluntary corrective action that we are taking with regard to flame resistant sweatshirts that utilized ITI Style 2015 sweatshirt material (NSA material codes are IW (Navy Blue) and HH (Yellow)). We have recently discovered some inconsistencies in the afterflame data while conducting ASTM D 6413 vertical flame testing of these fabrics. The initial testing required by the standard indicated that the fabric was compliant, and all UL testing also indicated compliance. The cause appears to be a residual lubricant which may be removed with washing. Upon receiving these results, we immediately proceeded to conduct further testing of NSA products that utilized the IW and HH fabrics. Arc testing on these garments, which included new and laundered random samples, demonstrated that the garments maintained their protective qualities when subjected to an arc flash event using ASTM F2621. In addition, afterflame in the actual arc flash events (which ranged from 25-29 cal) was less than can be measured for each sweatshirt tested. Industry experts were consulted and they concluded that while there is a compliance issue with the additional testing of stored materials, the data does not indicate any risk, harm, or removal of protective value in real arc events. Nonetheless, NSA has chosen to offer replacement of the sweatshirts affected by this quality issue.

NSA has had no reported incidents of garment failure, since we began utilizing these materials in 2014. One sampling of field used garments indicated that this may be a storage issue of new garments. Additional flash fire testing is ongoing and if further attention is required, NSA will respond appropriately. However, in an abundance of caution, we believe it is necessary to report this information to you to share with your customers because some garments may not pass the "afterflame of 2 seconds or less" portion of the ASTM D 6413 vertical flame test. Going forward, we have discontinued NSA products that utilized the IW and HH fabrics and will no longer provide products made from the IW and/or HH fabric. All current orders will be placed on hold until an alternative product is selected. NSA is also offering a replacement sweatshirt free of charge to those customers who send in their old IW or HH sweatshirt and want an alternative. Alternative materials are listed on the following page.

Voluntary Corrective Action Plan:

- Identify items with potential quality issues due to inconsistent vertical flame test results. Product codes include:
 - C21IW01HZ
 - C21IW01HZW
 - C21IW02
 - C21IW03
 - C21IW03W
 - C21IW05
 - C21IW05W
 - C23IW01HZ
 - C21IWWE01HZ
 - C23IW03HZ
 - C21IWWE03
 - C21IWWE05
 - C21HH03C3
 - C21HH05C3
- Deliver a replacement option for our valued distributors to offer to their customers:
 - Reference tables.
- Ensure that our valued distributors have flame resistant sweatshirt options for Fall/Winter of 2016 in an effort to not leave customers' needs unanswered.

Contact our Customer Service Team for RGA (Return Garment Authorization) numbers, questions, and available options. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your understanding as we work together to resolve this quality issue for all potentially affected parties.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Erica Salomon, (313) 749-6632 or esalomon@carhartt.com

**CARHARTT ANNOUNCES VOLUNTARY PRODUCT NOTIFICATION TO CUSTOMERS
ABOUT NINE STYLES OF FLAME RESISTANT SWEATSHIRTS**

Dearborn, Mich. (August 17, 2016) – Carhartt today informed customers about a voluntary product notification regarding nine Flame Resistant (FR) sweatshirt styles with durable water repellent finish (DWR) manufactured in 2014 and after. Test results indicate inconsistencies in the performance ratings of these industrial garments, and some of the garments may not currently meet the requirements of NFPA 2112 and NFPA 70E. Carhartt has not received any reports of injuries or failures of the product; however, it is asking for all affected garments to be returned. Customers should contact Carhartt Customer Service at 888-894-7601 to return the product and obtain a refund.

“Carhartt takes seriously the safety of our hardworking customers. Because some of the affected garments may not currently meet the requirements of NFPA 2112 and NFPA 70E and do not meet Carhartt’s high quality standards, we are asking all customers to return the affected product,” said Linda Hubbard, Carhartt President and Chief Operating Officer. “We’re committed to continuous improvement in our products and processes and will continue to work to meet and exceed industry standards.”

The list of affected products, by style number, can be found below:

STYLE NUMBER(S)	NAME
100647	FR Thermal-lined Full-Zip Sweatshirt
101203	Flame-Resistant Heavyweight Klondike Sweatshirt
101247	FR Klondike Sweatshirt
101700	Flame Resistant Striped Klondike Sweatshirt
101702	Flame-Resistant Thermal Lined Sweatshirt
101951	Flame-Resistant Klondike Hood
FRK006	Flame-Resistant Heavyweight Hooded Sweatshirt
FRK007	Flame-Resistant Heavyweight Zip-Front Hooded Sweatshirt
FRK127	FR Crewneck Pullover Sweatshirt

No other Carhartt products are impacted by this product notification. Carhartt regrets any inconvenience this product notification may cause.

About Carhartt, Inc.

Established in 1889, Carhartt is a global premium workwear brand with a rich heritage of developing rugged products for workers on and off the job. Headquartered in Dearborn, Michigan, with approximately 5,400 employees worldwide, Carhartt is family-owned and managed by the descendants of the company’s founder, Hamilton Carhartt. For more information, visit www.carhartt.com and follow [@CarharttNews](https://twitter.com/CarharttNews) on Twitter.

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