

Press release

marketing communication

TenCate increases production capacity for TenCate Tecasafe® Plus

TenCate Protective Fabrics Americas, the market leader in inherently flame-resistant (FR) fabrics for protective apparel, has strategically enhanced proprietary manufacturing processes to meet supply chain challenges in the industrial safety apparel market. TenCate has worked with its supply chain and is planning ahead for trends in reduced availability of FR cotton and the expected increased demand for TenCate Tecasafe® Plus fabrics.

The FR industry has encountered shortages and longer lead times for industrial safety apparel due to decreased supply of cotton fibers worldwide, which in turn placed higher unanticipated demand on inherently FR solutions, such as TenCate Tecasafe® Plus. In response, a team of TenCate senior engineers and manufacturing specialists worked tirelessly to find innovative solutions to the new complex supply chain challenges. TenCate not only eliminated their backlog for TenCate Tecasafe® Plus, but since 2010 has created a seven fold production capacity increase for this product.

Strong and dependable supply chain

TenCate manufacturing facilities have leaned forward, even on specialty shades, to maintain the availability of the entire range of industrial fabrics. Mike Anderson, Vice President of Operations, TenCate Protective Fabrics Americas, comments: 'Over the past year, TenCate has worked to build a strong and dependable supply chain which now stands ready to support the immediate needs of all customers'. Since TenCate has no shortage of fiber, end users need not hesitate to specify such fabrics as TenCate Tecasafe® Plus in their garments. Lead times for alternative products based on treated FR cotton can be as long as eight weeks, while TenCate blends of FR fibers can ship within two to three.

Much more TenCate Tecasafe® Plus in the US supply chain

TenCate Protective Fabrics Americas and its supply chain partners began strategic planning last year, and the resulting increased capacity means that seven million yards of additional materials are being produced. New jobs have been added to TenCate manufacturing facilities since June of 2010, and four full-time shifts are currently working seven days a week.

**TenCate Protective Fabrics Americas
Union City (Georgia), USA, Monday 8 August 2011**

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TenCate Protective Fabrics is based in Union City, Georgia (USA). TenCate employs over 1,400 people in the United States of America.

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TenCate Protective Fabrics is a world leader in the design, development, production and commercialization of protective and safety fabrics for industry, services, fire fighting and defense. TenCate Protective Fabrics has establishments in North America, Europe, South America and Asia.

Royal Ten Cate (TenCate) is a multinational company which combines textile technology with related chemical processes and material technology in the development and production of functional materials with distinctive characteristics. Products of TenCate are sold worldwide.

Systems and materials from TenCate come under four areas of application: safety & protection, space & aerospace, infrastructure & the environment, and sport & recreation. TenCate occupies leading positions in protective fabrics, composites for space and aerospace, antiballistics, geosynthetics and synthetic turf. TenCate is listed on the NYSE Euronext (AMX).