

Press release

TenCate Applauds the US Congress for extending Defense Department's Authority to Buy Flame-Resistant Uniforms

TenCate Protective Fabrics USA applauds the decision by the US President and the Congress to extend, to January 2015, the Defense Department's authority to buy flame-resistant uniforms that are giving U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan the best total performance in terms of protection, comfort, and cost.

The fiscal 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, which the President signed on January 7, 2010, provided a two-year extension to a waiver to the Berry Amendment that was due to expire in January 2013. The Berry Amendment requires that Department of Defense buy, with few exceptions, 100 percent American-made food, clothing, fabrics, and specialty metals. Congress originally enacted the waiver in 2008 to give the Pentagon the authority to buy uniforms containing flame-resistant rayon fiber because rayon fiber is no longer produced in the United States.

'Congress deserves credit for taking this important step for our troops and the U.S. textile industry', says John Shadinger, President, Defense and Tactical at TenCate Protective Fabrics USA. 'It will ensure that our troops can continue to wear uniforms that provide the best total performance and that American workers can continue to make them.'

A vibrant amount of U.S. jobs

Flame-resistant rayon fiber has unique qualities that make it a preferred part of Department of Defense's solution for flame-resistant uniforms for ground forces. A vibrant U.S. industrial base of over 10,000 jobs in several states relies on this raw material to manufacture these important uniforms for personal protection.

The 2013 expiration date spurred concerns that, without the certainty that an extension would bring, the U.S. textile industry could not make needed long-term investments to manufacture the uniforms and the Pentagon could not be assured that it would have them when it needed them. Stable access to critical raw materials stimulates the U.S. textile industry to innovate and invest. That, in turn, feeds a healthy and competitive industrial base that gives Department of Defense the best technologies and creates jobs for American workers.

The U.S. textile industry has been urging policymakers to extend the waiver so it can continue to make, and the Pentagon can continue to buy, the uniforms that our troops need and deserve. The flame-resistant uniforms, which the troops began receiving in 2007, have significantly reduced deaths and injuries from burns that are increasingly caused by our enemies' use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The Congress deserves credit for taking this important step for our troops and the U.S. textile industry.

**TenCate Protective Fabrics North America
Union City, Georgia (USA), Wednesday 12 January 2011**

For further information:

TenCate employs over 1,400 people in the United States of America.

TenCate Protective Fabrics USA

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TenCate Protective Fabrics develops and produces protective and safety fabrics for industry, services, firefighting and defence. TenCate Protective Fabrics has plants in Europe, Asia and North-America.

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).