

Press release

investor relations

TenCate Defender™ M benefits from permanent waiver granted by US Congress for the use of FR rayon fibers

The United States Congress eliminated future restrictions in the recently approved Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), for the use of FR (flame-resistant) rayon fiber by the US military. FR rayon fiber is exclusively used in a unique fiber blend for the TenCate Defender™ M fabric portfolio. This FR rayon fiber is not available in the United States.

A 'sunset clause' in a waiver included in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) allowed the use of imported FR rayon fibers in protective fabrics for US Military uniforms, but this authority would expire in January 2013. The US Congress extended this expiration to 2015 in the 2011 NDAA.

The positive effect of the elimination of future restrictions is that the US Department of Defense (DoD) and the American textile industry are now able to plan on a reliable, long-term supply of protective fabrics for so long as it is deemed to be essential to protecting American troops in crisis areas. This will enhance the visibility of future sales within the industry, which is also positive to better plan for future investments and employment levels.

TenCate Defender™ M

TenCate outsourced the major part of the total production of the US demand for TenCate Defender™ M fabrics, representing over 10,000 American jobs. This material has become the fabric of choice and has created the new standard for flame-resistant protection. TenCate Defender™ M was selected by the DoD in 2007 in response to the critical need to better protect American troops from burn injuries. TenCate Protective Fabrics USA won multiple solicitations from the US Army, US Marine Corps, US Air force and the US Navy.

The fabric provides for an optimum balance of flame resistance, durability, comfort and costs and causes a major reduction in burn injuries and thus saved a large number of lives since 2007.

Royal Ten Cate
Almelo, the Netherlands, Thursday 5 January 2012

For further information:

Digital images are available on request on: media@tencate.com

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

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