

Technical Advisory to Advanced F.M.E. Products

To Advanced F.M.E. Products Customers,

On November 23, 2010 we were notified of an issue encountered with our Safe-T-Sponge product on a nuclear turbine application. Specifically; the fire retardant laminate on small diameter NPL (nuclear) sponges separated from the sponge. The sponges were used in the main feed pump sump area and were exposed to residual Chevron GST turbine oil.

Based on initial information received we obtained GST oil and began a series of long-term tests that day. We were especially interested in understanding how the laminate separated from the retraction loops and if the laminate weakened during long term exposure.

The laminate is adhered to the foam using a clear, mylar 'carrier' that is sandwiched between the laminate and foam. This mylar carrier was initiated into production October, 2009. This carrier allows uniform adhesive application and increased flexibility. Although our tests continue we now believe that this mylar separated from the sponge and laminate and may be the debris in question.

Sponges having a fire retardant laminate are advantageous and can continue to be used in applications where there is no risk of exposure to hydraulic oils. However, in certain applications exposure to hydraulic oils is a foreseeable event. Therefore we advise that laminated Safe-T-Sponges not be used for these applications to the extent possible.

Standard, non-laminated Safe-T-Sponges are not affected by this advisory. Please note that foam used in all Safe-T-Sponge products is fire resistant per UL94HF1 and is compounded without chlorides or fluorides.

Please let us know if your site has experienced delamination or any other issues with either our NPL-1 through NPL-4 sponges (laminated standard) or our larger, special order PL or ADV custom series sponges.

Please also contact us if you are intending to use our products in oil-exposed applications. We will exchange or replace laminated sponges with equivalent non-laminated sponges to you at no cost.

Advanced F.M.E. Products takes seriously our responsibility to F.M.E. professionals and continually strives to provide you with the highest quality products. We greatly appreciate the confidence you have extended to us. We will continue our tests and report additional information in the future.

Sincerely,

Thomas Nolfi

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As a result of investigation and product development Advanced F.M.E. Products has made the following changes:

- The exchange program for nuclear customers remains in effect.
- Detailed instructions for fossil and nuclear applications are included with all orders. Cautions on use with hydraulic or other oils is noted.
- Adhesive using a mylar 'carrier' is being replaced with 'no-carrier' adhesive August, 2011.