Notification Regarding PFAS Content of Firefighting Gear[1]

The state statutes (the "Statutes") listed below require manufacturers and sellers of firefighting personal protective equipment to provide notice to purchasers of equipment containing PFAS chemicals. PFAS chemicals are defined in the Statutes as a "class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom."

LION does not add or employ the use of PFAS chemicals in our assembly processes. We purchase our moisture barriers and fabrics from textile manufacturers for incorporation into our personal protective equipment.

Since the end of 2021, all outer shells and thermal liner fabrics in LION turnout gear that are treated with durable water repellent (DWR) finishes have DWR finishes made without fluorinated chemistry.

According to WL Gore and Associates, and Stedfast, Inc., the only two textile manufacturers that supply barrier composites to LION and to many other manufacturers of personal protective equipment, their barrier materials contain polymer films that fall under the very broad definition in the Statutes as PFAS substances. With respect to Crosstech Black and Crosstech, but not RT7100, from WL Gore, or Stedfast barriers, fluorinated polymer DWR treatments may be applied to the inside of the barrier composites, in order to provide to the fabrics the water and oil repellency and breathability features which are critical to firefighter health and safety. WL Gore and Stedfast have specified that they do not add "long chain" perfluorocarboxylic acids (C8) such as PFOA or PFOS to the materials supplied to LION. The moisture barrier layers do not directly touch the skin of the firefighter.

Based on the information we have reviewed from WL Gore and Stedfast, the EPA, and from other sources, the moisture barrier composites Lion and other manufacturers incorporate into personal protective equipment enhance the safety and protection of firefighters. The barriers from Stedfast and WL Gore are the only barrier materials that currently meet the safety requirements of the NFPA 1971 Standard on Structural Firefighting PPE. They are used to reduce the risk to firefighters from extremely dangerous exposures to toxic chemicals such as gasoline, chlorine, and battery acid, as well as other chemicals that are typically present in emergency operations. These polymer materials also reduce the risk to firefighters from scald burns and heat stress caused by water soaking into protective equipment during high heat fire suppression operations.

All fabrics used by LION have been certified to the OEKO-TEX 100 safety standard for PPE fabrics by suppliers Milliken, Ten Cate, Safety Components, Stedfast, and WL Gore. OEKO-TEX 100 certification requires testing for dozens of potentially contaminating residual chemicals, and is based on the European standards for textile safety. LION is committed to providing safe and effective firefighting personal protective equipment, in full compliance with all safety and environmental regulations, including the latest edition of NFPA 1971.

For further information about Lion's products, please visit our website, www.lionprotects.com.

[1] **Pursuant to Washington Senate Bill 6413, Colorado House Bill 19-1279, and New Hampshire Revised Statutes Section154 8b (effective 1/1/20); New York Gen. Bus. Section 391-u; Sec. 1 18 Vermont Statutes, Chapter 33.**