



National Foam Inc.  
141 Junny Road  
Angier, NC, 27501

January 19, 2020

Dear Customer,

**Re: Health Canada's Drinking Water Quality Amendments (MAC and DWSV)**

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Health Canada recently adopted amendments to Canadian Drinking Water Quality standards. In accordance with the new rules, National Foam, Inc. ("National Foam") is providing you with information regarding the content, use, discharge and disposal of fluorinated firefighting foam products. If you sell any product identified below to a different distributor, retailer, contractor, etc., this letter must be forwarded to that entity.

Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality now places Maximum Allowable Concentrations (MAC) and Drinking Water Screening Values (DWSV) on various long-chain and short-chain PFAS which are present in fluorinated foam products.

All fluorinated firefighting foam products, including older C8 and newer C6 products, sold by National Foam to you (such as AFFF, AR-AFFF, FFFP, AR-FFFP, FP, and AR-FP) may contain at least trace amounts of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), as well as other PFAS species such as, but not limited to, 6:2 Fluorotelomer Sulfonate (6:2FTS), Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA) and Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) which are now included in the Canadian Drinking Water amendments.

As has been previously advised and following these regulatory developments, care should continue to be taken to avoid or minimize when possible the uncontrolled use, discharge or disposal of the product into the environment, including waterways. Accordingly, please take notice that use of fluorinated firefighting foam products without proper and appropriate protection may cause groundwater and subsequently drinking water contamination.

If you intend to place fluorinated foam into commerce in Canada, or if you may incidentally sell fluorinated foam to someone located in Canada, please be advised that you are responsible for maintaining this warning until the fluorinated foam reaches a retailer and is sold to an end-user.

We recommend that you retain legal counsel in the event you have any questions as to the obligations outlined in this notice.

## Use, Discharge, and Disposal of Firefighting Foam Products

This Notice is issued as a reminder concerning the use, discharge, and disposal of firefighting foam products containing fluorinated surfactants. All fluorinated firefighting foam products, including older C8 and newer C6 products, sold by National Foam to you (such as AFFF, AR-AFFF, FFFP, AR-FFFP, FP, and AR-FP) may contain at least trace amounts of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), as well as other PFAS species such as, but not limited to, 6:2 Fluorotelomer Sulfonate (6:2FTS), Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA) and Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA).

Health Canada's Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality now places Maximum Allowable Concentrations (MAC) and Screening Values (DWSV) on various long-chain and short-chain PFAS. Accordingly, National Foam informs you that it supplies firefighting foams based on the following use and discharge conditions intended to ensure that PFAS does not reach drinking water:

- You will use and discharge an appropriate foam during training exercises, for example non-fluorinated foams, or ensure measures are in place to eliminate environmental releases of fluorinated foams.
- You will take all reasonable steps to ensure fluorinated firefighting foam is removed from the environment following its use, including those steps recommended in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 11, including its Annex E, entitled, "Foam Environmental Issues".

Additional resources are provided below.

Fluorinated surfactants are key raw materials within many foam concentrates that substantially reduce surface tension, enabling rapid extinguishment, low fuel pick-up as well as superior post fire security and protection.

As has been advised previously, these firefighting foam products may leave a fluorosurfactant chain, including certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in the environment which can persist and potentially reach groundwater, including drinking water. PFAS are ubiquitous in the environment and may be found in many commonly used products, in addition to firefighting foam products. Certain PFAS also may break down in the environment to form other PFAS chemicals. The applicable Safety Data Sheets (SDS), Guidance Documents and Technical Bulletins, as well as Health Canada's

notifications and any laws, regulations, and codes concerning PFAS or firefighting foam products applicable in your area, should continue to be consulted before usage, discharge, and disposal of these products.

As has been previously advised and following these regulatory developments, care should continue to be taken to avoid or minimize when possible the uncontrolled use, discharge or disposal of the product into the environment, including waterways. In addition, we remind our customers that for many years training foams not formulated with fluorinated surfactants have been available for use during training to simulate the usage of a variety of these products. These training foams should continue to be strongly considered for use during training.

If any foam product is released into the environment, efforts should continue to be made to control, contain and collect the discharge for proper disposal, while following all applicable laws, regulations, and codes.

As a further resource concerning the use, discharge, and disposal of these products, we remind our customers also to consult the Fire Fighting Foam Coalition's (FFFC) Best Practice Guidance for Use of Class B Firefighting Foam and the NFPA Code 11, including its Annex E, entitled, "Foam Environmental Issues".

### **External Resources** *(accuracy of external websites cannot be guaranteed)*

Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/water-quality.html>

FFFC best practice guide:

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/331cad\\_188bf72c523c46adac082278ac019a7b.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/331cad_188bf72c523c46adac082278ac019a7b.pdf)

NFPA:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Codes-and-Standards/All-Codes-and-Standards/Codes-and-Standards>