



NOTICE TO MOTORSPORT SANCTIONING BODIES

It's been brought to the attention of the SFI Foundation that certain driver protective suits being manufactured and distributed into the marketplace present a unique and serious threat to the safety of the drivers. These suits incorporate an outer layer of material that is neither flame nor heat resistant, and will melt at relatively low temperatures.

These suits can be easily identified by the nature of their graphics, which are achieved by a process called dye sublimation. Rather than using more traditional graphic methods such as patches attached to, or embroidery sewn into the suit, this process provides for complex and vivid graphics which are actually imbedded directly into the outer material layer.

The problem is that the dye sublimation process has never been successfully applied to any of the materials used in driver protective suits which meet accepted industry standards. It can only be used on a synthetic material that has little or no fire or heat resistant properties.

At first, these suits were distributed only for use in motorsport disciplines in which the sanctioning bodies have no minimum standards for driver protective clothing. They were not certified or identified by the manufacturer as meeting SFI Spec 3.2A, or any other accepted industry wide standard.

Recently, however, at least one suit using the dye sublimation process was found with an official SFI Specification 3.2A certification patch affixed while in use at a major drag racing event, sanctioned by an organization that strictly requires that driver suits meet the appropriate SFI Specification. This constitutes a clear and extremely dangerous misrepresentation.

The manufacturer has since recalled this suit, and replaced it with a properly tested and certified garment. The manufacturer continues, however, to produce and distribute suits using the dye sublimation process in situations where minimum performance specifications are not required by the sanctioning body. These suits do not, and cannot meet any accepted industry wide standard for driver protection.

Should your technical inspectors or scrutineers observe a driver suit which incorporates the dye sublimation graphic process, the driver should be made aware of the potential danger of wearing such a suit in competition, and should be directed to contact the manufacturer immediately.

09/17/07