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MILLIKEN LAUNCHES NEW FLAME RESISTANT FABRIC FOR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING MARKET

LAS VEGAS (August 11, 2003) – The Apparel and Military Performance Fabrics Business, a unit of Spartanburg, S.C.-based Milliken & Co., unveiled its new flame-resistant fabric today at the Clean Show.

CXP™ (Comfort x Performance) is the next generation of NOMEX® flame-resistant fabrics that provides superior comfort with superior safety. Made of DuPont's NOMEX IIIA fiber, CXP has improved flame-resistant properties, and has been proven to be more comfortable and more durable than traditional NOMEX and other flame-resistant fabrics.

“The big news is that NOMEX is finally comfortable, and we’re offering it at a competitive price,” said Bill Steller, senior account manager for Milliken’s Apparel and Military Performance Fabrics Business. “At Milliken we’re known for our research capabilities and for bringing innovative fabrics to the market. CXP is the result of more than a year of development efforts and it offers several key improvements over today’s NOMEX. Additionally, CXP has been recognized by UL as passing the requirements for NFPA 2112 and ASTM 1506.

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“CXP is softer and more breathable, which helps people stay comfortable when it’s hot, and our deep-dye processing means it resists fading in sunlight and in the wash. CXP utilizes our VISA® technology, for stain release and wicking, as well as our patent-pending Softouch Technology®, which gives it the soft feel. It is competitively priced compared to traditional NOMEX, making it a better return on investment. Its lighter weight versus FR cotton means more garments can be processed per wash load, and route drivers make fewer trips in and out of the delivery van because they can carry more uniforms each time. In total, garments made from CXP provide a better value for the laundry and a more comfortable fabric for the wearer.”

Although CXP is not suitable for welder’s clothing, it is an ideal product for other workers who need protection from sparks and fire hazards. CXP is inherently flame-resistant, whereas cotton products must be chemically treated to become flame-resistant. With CXP, there is no risk of a garment losing its flame-resistance during its lifespan because according to DuPont, the inventor of NOMEX, the fiber does not sustain combustion in the air and will not melt, drip or burn when exposed to heat or flame. CXP meets or exceeds the flammability standards of other NOMEX fabrics, so the wearer gets better protection in hazardous situations, and the laundry is assured of a consistently performing product.

“We have raised the bar for the performance of flame-resistant fabrics,” Steller said.

Milliken & Company is a leading international textile and chemical firm. Headquartered in Spartanburg, S.C., the company employs more than 12,000 in over 60 manufacturing facilities worldwide. For more information about Milliken’s CXP flame-resistant fabrics, for user references, sample swatches, or to inquire about wear trials and merchandising tools, call 1-800-828-3034.

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