

ORDER

Pursuant to General Statutes § 22a-6

Commissioner Katherine Dykes

June 30, 2021

Identification of an Alternative Fluorine-Free Firefighting Foam

I hereby identify National Universal^{®F3} Green as an alternative to class B firefighting foam that contains an intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS, are a large family of human-made chemicals that have been widely used in industry and consumer products since the 1950s. PFAS have now been proven to have long-term adverse effects on both human health and the environment. One product that contains high concentrations of PFAS is aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), which is used primarily to extinguish liquid fuel fires.

Section 1 of Public Act 21-191 indicates that unless certain specified exceptions apply, “no person shall use a class B firefighting foam that contains an intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance for any vapor suppression or firefighting purpose unless such fire is a flammable liquid-based fire and the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection fails to identify an alternative to such use on or before July 1, 2021.” Upon section 1 of Public Act 21-191 taking effect, the identification of National Universal^{®F3} Green will mean that, beginning on October 1, 2021, Class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS can no longer be used in Connecticut.

This alternative firefighting foam was identified by a work group created at the request of the State Fire Administrator. The work group was established to find a suitable fluorine-free alternative (F3) to replace PFAS-containing AFFF. The group was composed of fire service leaders from around the state, as well as personnel from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Emergency Response Unit and Remediation Division. The work group was tasked with determining the effectiveness of potential replacement foams.

The work group, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, evaluated the performance of several F3 products and independently laboratory tested the products to confirm they were PFAS- and halogen-free.



Katherine S. Dykes, Commissioner