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To Our Valued Customers:

Last week, Toyobo, along with several U.S. manufacturers of body armor, testing agencies, law enforcement organizations, police agencies and other fiber manufacturers attended the National Institute of Justice's Body Armor Summit, which is part of U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's initiative to address the reliability of body armor and the future of bullet-resistant technology. During the Summit, the NIJ released an interim status report in which it explained its used vest testing protocol, announced that it has begun this testing, but confirmed that, at this time, it is premature to draw any reliable conclusions.

Toyobo, the maker of Zylon® fiber which is widely used in ballistic applications, applauds the U.S. Department of Justice for holding the Body Armor Safety Summit and has pledged its continued assistance to the government's efforts to understand what makes bullet-resistant vests safe.

"We support the Attorney General's efforts," said Masakazu Saito, General Manager of Toyobo's Zylon Department. "Toyobo is fully committed to sharing all our data in assisting the government. We look forward to the results of the government's initiative and testing efforts so that police and security personnel who depend on body armor are confident of the level of protection afforded by their body armor. We believe that Zylon is suitable for use in ballistic applications when properly integrated into an overall body armor system, taking into account the known characteristics and properties of Zylon."

Earlier this month, Toyobo provided the NIJ with testing results which demonstrate that Zylon's resistance to stretch does not degrade, even when exposed to extreme temperature and humidity conditions over a 20 month period. The test results found the tensile modulus -- the engineering term for stretch resistance -- for Zylon fiber remains constant even after exposure to 104 degrees Fahrenheit and 80% relative humidity for 24 hours a day, over almost 600 days. The aging effects on Zylon fiber under extreme temperature and humidity conditions show that Zylon fiber's capability for energy dissipation remains constant and extremely high. The results of the stretch resistance tests on Zylon have been hailed by industry experts as being significant because stretch resistance is an important characteristic to be considered in the design and engineering of a bullet-resistant vest.

Toyobo shared other test data with the NIJ as early as last fall and met with NIJ officials several weeks ago to offer additional assistance.

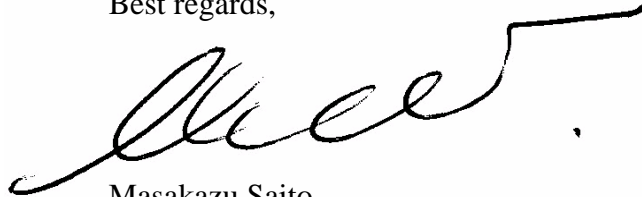
Zylon was first sold for commercial use by Toyobo in 1998 and is a component part of more than 100 models of bullet-resistant vests. Like other fibers used for ballistic

applications, over time and under certain conditions, the tensile strength, or breaking point, of Zylon may experience degradation. Test results showing some Zylon degradation under heat and humidity have been repeatedly reported over the years to manufacturers of body armor so they could take the data into account when developing a vest's design, including weave pattern, the number and sequence of plies, the number and placement of stitches, the amount of Zylon used, and the vest's covering material.

The NIJ recognizes the importance of the design of the overall body armor system, and has announced that it will conduct its testing on a representative sample of body armor manufactured by different manufacturers. Toyobo supports this protocol, which takes into account the fact that all body armor is not the same. Toyobo looks forward to the NIJ's continued assessment of ballistic systems and recognizes the importance of refraining from general conclusions until thorough scientific testing has been concluded. As Deputy Attorney General James Comey observed: "We are not yet in a position to draw broad based conclusions about the current technology that's out there."

Toyobo continues to make and sell Zylon. And, major body armor manufacturers continue to support the use of Zylon in bullet-resistant vests which are properly designed and manufactured. Toyobo thanks you for your continued support of Zylon fiber.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masakazu Saito', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Masakazu Saito

General Manager, Zylon Department  
Toyobo Co., Ltd.