

Re: Response to Request for Conflict Minerals Information

Dear Valued Customer:

This letter is in response to your request for information as to whether various Fastenal products contain “conflict minerals,” which the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) has defined as gold, columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite, wolframite, or their derivatives (tin, tantalum, or tungsten). Fastenal shares the concerns of industry and other stakeholders that mining and trade of conflict minerals in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or adjoining countries (“Conflict Region”) may be controlled or taxed by armed groups engaging in conflict and human rights abuses in that region.

We are aware that on August 22, 2012, the SEC adopted final rules on conflict minerals reporting, pursuant to Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act. These rules included important clarifications. The SEC excluded from the rules any conflict minerals that, prior to January 31, 2013, have been smelted or fully refined or are located outside the Conflict Region.

Accordingly, any conflict minerals in products currently in the supply chain are not subject to reporting. In addition, all issuers will be reporting on a calendar year basis. The first reporting period will be for products manufactured or contracted to be manufactured from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Currently, Fastenal is not able to certify that all products we distribute are free of conflict minerals, but we can provide a **product level review** as an interim solution. Customers subject to these reporting obligations should provide Fastenal a list of applicable products to the email below and we will identify if the products contain the minerals in question, including their conflict status (if available). Please send this information and future inquiries to [conflictminerals@fastenal.com](mailto:conflictminerals@fastenal.com).

#### **Fastenal’s Policy:**

Fastenal does not knowingly procure any products containing tin, tantalum, tungsten or gold that originates from the Conflict Region, unless our Seller confirms that the product or its raw materials originate from mines or smelters that are certified as “conflict free”. To ensure compliance with the Dodd-Frank Act, our Sellers are required to undertake reasonable due diligence with their supply chains to determine whether the specified metals, if any exist in their respective products, are being sourced from:

1. Mines and smelters outside the Conflict Region **or**
2. Mines and smelters which have been certified by an independent third party as “conflict free”, if sourced within the Conflict Region.

Sellers are required to provide written documentation to [conflictminerals@fastenal.com](mailto:conflictminerals@fastenal.com) to confirm whether the raw materials tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold used in the manufacture of the products supplied to Fastenal originated from outside the Conflict Region or, if the raw material originated from within the Conflict Region, that the mines or smelters are certified as “conflict free” by an independent third party.

If Fastenal discovers that a Seller has not provided proper documentation or submits inaccurate documentation or utilized facilities that are not certified “conflict free”, Fastenal may terminate any PO, return any non-conforming products or seek any further relief or remedies provided herein.



Melissa M. Puchalla  
Director of Product Compliance