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VICE PRESIDENT ENGINEERING

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Subject: Crosby Shackles

To Whom It May Concern:

The Crosby Group, Inc. has recently been made aware of a counterfeit shackle alert that has been circulating. Please be advised that the undated and unauthorized alert contains some of the photographs and information of a previous unauthorized alert of 2004. The alert is not based on a new occurrence or finding, and is wrong and misleading. We have contacted the OSHA Office of Maritime Enforcement (referenced on the recent alert) with regard to the content, and they have provided a clarification and retraction (see the attached email from OSHA Director of Office of Maritime Enforcement).

To make sure we maintain the confidence of our product users, Crosby has established a systematic review process of any possible suspected counterfeit Crosby products. We first review pictures of the product and then perform a metallurgical study of any suspect product to make a final determination. Through this review process, we have evaluated a number of suspected products and found them to be genuine Crosby product. We have never detected a counterfeit shackle in the U.S. Given this, and the fact that we produce millions of shackles each year, there is not a counterfeit issue regarding our shackles.

The primary reason people submit possible counterfeit products to us for our review is the appearance of lettering. The lettering and marking of the product is only one characteristic to consider when determining the authenticity. The lettering will vary somewhat from each size of product, and may change with each revision of the forging die. In fact, although not currently done, Crosby has produced shackles with the "Crosby" lettering in all capital letters, rather than the styled Crosby logo in block letters. Therefore, a visual difference of lettering is not indicative of a counterfeit product. Additionally, there have been changes in the manufacturing method to improve the product through the years. These improvements can change the size and shape of the product and lettering.

We have been diligent about investigating all concerns that users have regarding the authenticity of products. If there is any suspected product, we stand ready to have it analyzed and make a factual determination in a matter of days. In closing, our objective is to provide the industry with the most accurate information regarding potential counterfeits. We are prepared to review any suspected product and make a determination of the authenticity. Thanks for the opportunity to clarify this matter and get the facts to our valued customers. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks and regards,

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