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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services
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ADVISORY

TO: Heads of Fire Department; All Municipal Building Departments; State Building Inspectors

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

Thomas G. Gatzunis, P.E., C.B.O.
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

DATE: May 7, 2012

RE: Fire Pump Sensor Recall Information

This memorandum is issued to advise of a recall that affects the operation of fire pumps. The recall is specific to a pressure sensor, which is used to automatically start the pump in the event of sprinkler operation.

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued the following information on 24 April, 2012:

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Gems 3100 Pressure Detectors/Transducers

Units: About 25,000

Importer: Gems Sensors Inc., of Plainville, Conn.

Hazard: The transducer can fail to accurately detect water pressure in a fire suppression sprinkler system. This could cause the sprinkler system to fail to activate and pump water to the sprinklers in the event of a fire.

Incidents/Injuries: None.

Description: The Gems 3100 Pressure Transducer is used to detect pressure in a range of applications, including the detection of water pressure as part of a fire pump controller in a fire suppression sprinkler system. The transducer has "Gems Sensors & Controls," as well as the 18- digit part number, printed on a label affixed to the center of the transducer. Part numbers beginning with "3100" are included in this recall.

Sold by: Gems sold the recalled 3100 Pressure Transducers directly to end-users and through distributors from January 2006 through February 2012 for about \$250.

Manufactured in: England

Remedy: Contact Gems to receive enhanced twice monthly inspection instructions and information about a free replacement transducer, when warranted. End-users who use the 3100 Pressure Transducer in other applications in which water pressure is measured should contact Gems to determine if their units are affected.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, call the company toll-free at (855) 877-9666, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's website at <http://www.gemssensors.com>

This information should be shared with any facilities that have fire pumps in your jurisdiction. The owners should contact their fire pump maintenance companies to review their fire pumps. If these are found they should be immediately replaced and the fire pump considered to be out of service until the repair is completed.

If Fire Departments have any questions please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or the Technical Service Unit at 978-567-3375 or in Western MA 413-587-3181. For Building Officials, please contact your District State Building Inspector or Building Code technical staff at the Department of Public Safety 617-727-3200.