



Suspect/Defective Ammunition

PURPOSE

This Safety Alert provides information on a safety concern related to ammunition provided by a specific supplier.

BACKGROUND

On March 27, 2008, news accounts reported that the Army suspended a contract with a munitions supplier who was providing the Afghanistan government with obsolete ammunition from former communist bloc countries and gun cartridges manufactured in China. These accounts also reported that the company had sold ammunition to other government agencies, including the Department of Energy. Additionally, on April 3, 2008, the State Department suspended all international export activity by this company.

REASON FOR CONCERN

The supplier is a Miami based company doing business as AEY, Inc. It also does business as Business Products Depot. The Office of Health, Safety and Security verified that this company did sell ammunition to the Department of Energy. A search of on line procurement records revealed the following DOE procurements with AEY, Inc., and/or Business Products Depot.

- In March 2005, DOE purchased M16 magazines from this company under instrument number DEAF5205NA26521.
- In September 2005, DOE purchased 7.62mm ball linked cartridges from this company under instrument number DEAF5205NA26509.
- In September 2004, DOE purchased 5.56 mm cartridges from this company, who was doing business as "Business Products Depot". This was awarded under instrument number DEAF5204NA25535.
- In July 2004, DOE purchased .45 caliber ammunition from this company, awarded under instrument number DEAF5204NA25471.
- In July 2004, DOE purchased 5.56 mm cartridges from this company, awarded under instrument number DEAF5204NA25519.

ACTION REQUIRED

Potential safety and security issues at DOE facilities could exist if ammunition from this supplier remains available. Sites are requested to search available records and inventories, and to report positively or negatively on the following:

- Has your site done business with the above listed businesses?
- Do you currently have any ammunition or equipment obtained from those businesses in use or storage at your site? Any suspect ammunition or equipment should be quarantined and protected as evidence in the event it is needed or at least until DOE can determine if IG or DOJ has an interest.
- Have any safety or security operational issues associated with the above been identified at your site? Please ensure any positive response is reviewed for classification and sent via appropriate channels.

Note that a subcontract also could have supplied the ammunition in question.

If you have any ammunition or equipment from these companies, ensure it is inspected and serviceable or removed from duty status.

Please report your findings to Al Nettleingham, Al.Nettleingham@hq.doe.gov with courtesy copy to John Cronin, John.Cronin@hq.doe.gov.