



LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

SA-09-88

DATE: June 28, 1988

TO: All Facility Safety Heads
All Facility Coordinators

FROM: 429/Safety Manager, Head, Safety Engineering Branch,
SSQRD

SUBJECT: Sub-standard Fasteners

In December 1987, you were informed of a problem regarding sub-standard hex-head fasteners. All Grade 8 hex-head fasteners were purged from the Center and replacements were obtained. Lower grades will no longer be ordered, and the supply of Grade 8 fasteners now in our stockroom has been certified.

We have discovered problems in our socket head fasteners, but fortunately these are less severe in nature. Many socket head fasteners have been found with cracks in the heads and thread defects. It is not felt necessary to recall these for destruction, but careful examination prior to use is essential. Further, the existing stock should not be used in critical or high strength application. New stock has been procured to exacting standards and sample tested to insure acceptability. These new bolts are high strength (approximated 180 ksi tensile) and each box has a separate traceable lot number stamped on the box lid. These fasteners are to be used in critical applications for the time being, and eventually for all applications.

These new fasteners are coated with a black oxide finish which makes them distinguishable from the "old" fasteners that were in stock.

It is mandatory that we keep the new fasteners separated from the old stock, and that we maintain the traceability through the lot numbers. Accordingly the following actions are necessary:

1. Do not mix the new black oxide fasteners in open drawers, thus losing the box traceability.
2. Do not mix new black oxide fasteners with the "old" stock.

3. If ordering less than a box from stock, request that the lot numbers be recorded on the stock receipt and post it on the container or package.
4. Implement controlled access to the supply, preferably by locking or assuring by other comparable means controlled access to the supply.

Video tapes describing the national extent of this problem are in preparation. These and other information will soon be available through this Office.

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