FASTENER QUALITY ACT pdf

1: Fastenerdata - FASTENER QUALITY ACT - Fastener Specifications

What is the Fastener Quality Act? The enactment of the Fastener Quality Act (FQA) was the result of a number of high-profile fastener failures in the s. An investigation by the Congressional Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations found alarming shortcomings in industry standards, quality control and safety inspection.

Top Suppliers The Fastener Quality Act Fasteners are a part of many different applications we use in life, from everyday items and structures to space-traveling shuttles and military equipment. Industrial fasteners require strength and durability to maintain functionality and safety standards among all manner of these structure s and equipment. However, ensuring these qualities became difficult in the s, necessitating congressional and industry cooperation to develop and implement regulations, resulting in the Fastener Quality Act and its subsequently amended iterations. The group lobbied Congress for a serious investigation of the fastener industry, which resulted in a two-year study by the Congressional Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations ending in Is America Losing Its Grip? In addition, the report highlighted the then-recent upswing in fastener imports to the United States from overseas manufacturers. The report discovered these overseas suppliers counterfeited safety certificates and even passed off cheaper and less sturdy parts for more expensive and strong fasteners. The most troubling aspect of the report was the litany of fastener failures reported across the country. In November of , a Louisiana maintenance crew discovered failed bolt heads in a bridge joint on Interstate Highway A medium carbon boron steel had been substituted for the needed A high-strength alloy bolts. Multiple military problems arose, as well, including faulty gun mounts on tanks and counterfeit fasteners destined for Navy aircraft carriers. Legislators set to work writing a set of bills for the fastener industry in order to solve these gaps of oversight. In , President George H. The Act was found to have several bureaucratic and oversight problems, so legislators amended it several times throughout the nineties. Features of Act The FQA tried to stem safety problem by implementing guidelines for safety inspections of fasteners. First, they set up rules for accrediting fastener testing facilities, both within the industry and for private firms. Any part intended as a spare, substitute or replacement was likewise exempted. The law also requires fastener suppliers to clearly label all of their parts and to apply U. Patent and Trade Office-registered labels to their shipping materials. This was intended to proffer increased transparency to supply chains in case issues arose. Department of Commerce established a new hotline to report non-compliance or flouting of the act, primarily through fraud. If someone phones in a tip, the Commerce Department will investigate to ensure compliance. The strictest of controls from the early manifestation of the FQA have been relaxed, and yet production is still going strong and many of the mids problems have been addressed, freeing up the industry to police itself while maintaining quality standards and appealing to customers.

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2: Fastener - Wikipedia

Fastener Quality Act. The Fastener Quality Act (FQA) was signed into law by the President on June 8, The final law contained several exemptions which removed most fasteners from coverage.

Laws acquire popular names as they make their way through Congress. History books, newspapers, and other sources use the popular name to refer to these laws. How the US Code is built. The United States Code is meant to be an organized, logical compilation of the laws passed by Congress. At its top level, it divides the world of legislation into fifty topically-organized Titles, and each Title is further subdivided into any number of logical subtopics. In theory, any law -- or individual provisions within any law -- passed by Congress should be classifiable into one or more slots in the framework of the Code. On the other hand, legislation often contains bundles of topically unrelated provisions that collectively respond to a particular public need or problem. A farm bill, for instance, might contain provisions that affect the tax status of farmers, their management of land or treatment of the environment, a system of price limits or supports, and so on. Each of these individual provisions would, logically, belong in a different place in the Code. The process of incorporating a newly-passed piece of legislation into the Code is known as "classification" -- essentially a process of deciding where in the logical organization of the Code the various parts of the particular law belong. Sometimes classification is easy; the law could be written with the Code in mind, and might specifically amend, extend, or repeal particular chunks of the existing Code, making it no great challenge to figure out how to classify its various parts. And as we said before, a particular law might be narrow in focus, making it both simple and sensible to move it wholesale into a particular slot in the Code. But this is not normally the case, and often different provisions of the law will logically belong in different, scattered locations in the Code. As a result, often the law will not be found in one place neatly identified by its popular name. Nor will a full-text search of the Code necessarily reveal where all the pieces have been scattered. Instead, those who classify laws into the Code typically leave a note explaining how a particular law has been classified into the Code. It is usually found in the Note section attached to a relevant section of the Code, usually under a paragraph identified as the "Short Title". Our Table of Popular Names is organized alphabetically by popular name. So-called "Short Title" links, and links to particular sections of the Code, will lead you to a textual roadmap the section notes describing how the particular law was incorporated into the Code. Finally, acts may be referred to by a different name, or may have been renamed, the links will take you to the appropriate listing in the table.

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3: Following the Fastener Quality Act

FASTENER QUALITY ACT OF PL (Editorialized to incorporate the Amendments into the original Act) To amend the Fastener Quality Act to strengthen the protection against the sale of mismarked, misrepresented, and counterfeit fasteners and eliminate unnecessary requirements, and for other purposes.

This article is about the mechanical device. For the ride-sharing company, see Fasten company. This article has multiple issues. Please help improve it or discuss these issues on the talk page. This article relies too much on references to primary sources. Please improve this by adding secondary or tertiary sources. November This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. November This article may contain excessive or inappropriate references to self-published sources. Please help improve it by removing references to unreliable sources , where they are used inappropriately. November Learn how and when to remove this template message Typical fasteners US quarter shown for scale A fastener US English or fastening UK English [1] is a hardware device that mechanically joins or affixes two or more objects together. In general, fasteners are used to create non-permanent joints; that is, joints that can be removed or dismantled without damaging the joining components. Steel fasteners are usually made of stainless steel , carbon steel , or alloy steel. Other alternative methods of joining materials include: Force may also be used, such as with magnets , vacuum like suction cups , or even friction like sticky pads. Some types of woodworking joints make use of separate internal reinforcements, such as dowels or biscuits , which in a sense can be considered fasteners within the scope of the joint system, although on their own they are not general purpose fasteners. Furniture supplied in flat-pack form often uses cam dowels locked by cam locks , also known as conformat fasteners. Fasteners can also be used to close a container such as a bag, a box, or an envelope; or they may involve keeping together the sides of an opening of flexible material, attaching a lid to a container, etc. There are also special-purpose closing devices, e. Items like a rope , string, wire , cable , chain , or plastic wrap may be used to mechanically join objects; but are not generally categorized as fasteners because they have additional common uses. Likewise, hinges and springs may join objects together, but are ordinarily not considered fasteners because their primary purpose is to allow articulation rather than rigid affixment.

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4: The Fastener Quality Act

Following the Fastener Quality Act. A government and industry odyssey _____ by Richard B. Stump If ever there were a "The Cure was Worse than the Disease" award, the Fastener Quality Act (FQA) would surely win. Both the "disease" and the "cure" are associated with metal fasteners that affect our well-being every day as we drive our cars, cross over bridges and fly in airplanes (just a few examples of our dependency on products held together by fasteners).

Both the "disease" and the "cure" are associated with metal fasteners that affect our well-being every day as we drive our cars, cross over bridges and fly in airplanes just a few examples of our dependency on products held together by fasteners. The original purposes of the FQA were to protect public safety, deter introduction of nonconforming fasteners into U. Upon closer examination, a secondary objective emerges that places stricter controls on fasteners produced in foreign countries, some of which were believed to be substandard products "dumped" into the U. Passage of the act raises serious questions: Did the FQA cause fastener manufacturers to pursue significant product quality and quality system improvements? Or would quality improvements in the fastener industry have occurred anyway as part of the overall U. Will the high level of quality improvement, so vividly described in the many fastener industry testimonies presented to the U. Congress, be maintained, or will it erode to a point where history repeats itself? Can other industries use lessons from the fastener industry as they make decisions related to both product quality and quality system requirements? For many years, U. The fastener industry chose legislation to establish quality requirements for its products. Background The FQA was created as the result of several tragic product failures that occurred during the s. The fastener industry approached the U. Congress to take a leadership role in attacking fastener industry decline, manifested in substandard, counterfeit and mismarked fasteners. Dingell of Michigan, then chairman of the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, became the champion for the cause. In , after two years of studying the extensive list of fastener-related product failures, the subcommittee published its seminal report, "The Threat from Substandard Fasteners: Is America Losing Its Grip? The Subcommittee concluded with deep concern that a major tragedy was highly probable unless vigorous and effective efforts were made to improve fastener quality. This Subcommittee Report was later analyzed by the U. Department of Commerce in late and early to provide input to the General Counsel in a document titled "The Fastener Quality Act: Assessment and Recommendations," which identified the following salient points: Of the fastener problems uncovered by the DOD, the major controversy surrounded the issue of substandard Grade 8. Nearly all of the DOD problems with the Grade 8. Manufacturers in Japan, Korea, Poland, Mexico and Spain were identified as the primary sources of these and other faulty fasteners. The major problems fell into the following categories: Theorizing about a root cause for some of the problems, an IFI executive pointed to the OPEC oil embargo during the s and its effect on the cost of quenching oils used in the heat-treating process. Supplying these Grade 8. Low-carbon boron-steel fasteners manufactured using the lower temperature heattreatment cycles must be properly identified with the marking Grade 8. Under certain circumstances, this failure mode can be catastrophic. At the conclusion of its exhaustive study of the depth and breadth of the fastener quality problems in the United States, the subcommittee made wide-sweeping recommendations that are too numerous to list but can be summarized as follows: A fastener held out to meet a consensus standard should indeed meet its requirements for fit, form and function. All manufacturers or private-label distributors that wish to introduce fasteners into the stream of U. Patent and Trade Office. No duplicates are allowed. The focus on faulty fasteners materialized in a powerful legislative approach to establish and enforce fastener quality. Government regulation of quality, as with the FQA, follows a well-beaten path, according to quality guru Joseph M. Key ingredients, with the FQA counterparts, are: Required within days of the signing, the regulations for FQA implementation were to become one of the most contentious parts of the FQA, with decisions not reached until more than 10 years later. A set of standards controlling fastener testing laboratories was derived from the regulations. Within days after the signing of the FQA, a program for laboratory accreditation had to be documented, and implementation must have begun. At the onset, the FQA requirements emphasized final product sampling and test. This was a major fastener industry bone of

contention, as in-process inspection of fasteners had evolved as the norm for many manufacturers. Fastener head markings are required for fasteners that come under FQA requirements. A registry program is provided for manufacturers that want unique head markings for their products. Controversy surrounding the FQA was slow to form. The initial mandate directed the Secretary of Commerce to appoint an advisory committee within 90 days from the signing of the act. The committee consisted of 15 members from a cross-section of fastener industry-related manufacturers, distributors, users and standards organizations, who would act as consultants on the regulations and other matters for both the secretary and the director. The Fastener Advisory Committee was initially chartered for two years beginning in Feb. Its charter was renewed for two years in and then again in Agreement on the contents of the regulations became a source of contention between industry representatives and the NIST group from this point on. This time was required for NIST and those fastener manufacturers, distributors and user groups to work together to resolve issues with the initial legislation. The initial deadline for FQA implementation was set for May The additional time was needed for NIST to ensure that sufficient numbers of accredited fastener-testing laboratories were on board to adequately support proper functioning of the FQA. On April 18, one month before the deadline , the implementation date for the FQA Final Rule was moved once more to July 26, , to allow time for a sufficient number of test labs to be accredited by NIST and other agencies. In addition to the extension, the Federal notice: The FQA, as currently written, should be repealed. If the FQA were to be repealed, a consortium of major fastener purchasers, fastener manufacturers, the DOD, NIST and consensus standard organizations would prepare a biennial report to Congress with evaluations of fastener quality status, safety, standards and the need for continuation of this report. The FQA should be amended to simplify or eliminate needless requirements, scope and other provisions that obscure or fail to address the basic issue of substandard and counterfeit fasteners. There were an insufficient number of accredited testing laboratories to adequately support the FQA. The law again delayed implementation of the regulations until June 1, , or days after the Secretary of Commerce provided a report to Congress that addressed significant improvements to fastener manufacturing since , comparisons of the FQA to other fastener regulatory programs and recommendations for revising the FQA that may be warranted because of the changes identified. Quality assurance advances, based upon computer control and sensor technology, have allowed fastener manufacturers to produce product with zero defects or six-sigma precision. Original equipment manufacturers are demanding fastener manufacturers to implement advanced quality systems technology and are getting a strong favorable response from the industry. The ASME Workshop Breakout Session, which studied manufacturing technology, concluded that the problems or issues existing with fastener products were nonexistent at that time. A major industry theme emerged from this workshop: Public safety would then be protected for today and the future. The fruits of the labor from countless hours of organized lobbying by the fastener industry and associated parties can be seen in the newest versions of the FQA laws and regulations. Significant changes achieved the following: Eliminated the requirement for NIST to approve organizations that accredit fastener testing laboratories Limited fasteners covered under the act to high-strength parts that are both through-hardened and grade-marked. Exempt fasteners are further described to provide certainty of which categories are in fact exempt from the FQA regulations. Department of Commerce "hotline" to be used to report alleged violations of the law. Credible allegations will be forwarded to the Attorney General. In enacting these changes, Congress expressed its intent that the fastener industry police itself. As the Secretary of Commerce announced: Congress and the Administration recognized the major improvements made by the fastener industry since the FQA was passed in , reducing problems to a fraction of what they were at that time. Even as depositions were made to the Subcommittee on Feb. This report in turn reflected fastener industry input from the ASME-conducted workshop, held in Chicago November Fraud-like criminal offenses are addressed for specific misrepresentations and falsifications. The establishment of the new fastener fraud hotline facilitates reporting of alleged fraudulent actions or other violations. NIST will continue to operate a voluntary program to accredit fastener-testing laboratories. NIST is no longer responsible for evaluating organizations and subsequently will not maintain the Accredited Laboratory List. Organizations not operating under ISO guidelines may submit their own registration and accreditation guidelines for review and approval by the director of NIST.

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Ultimately, the FQA owes its final status to the well-coordinated lobbying of congressional leaders to make the major changes. The critical issues needed to maintain the current, improved methods of functioning within the fastener industry and for their association with major fastener user groups is preserved. Congress was most accommodating to recognize the main requests, declare victory and move on to other business. Government Printing Office, Assessment and Recommendations," Feb. NIST Web site, www. About the author Richard B. Stump, principal for Consultants in Quality Inc. Stump has been active in many facets of the Fastener Quality Act. He also consults in Six Sigma quality, lean manufacturing and quality systems. E-mail him at rstump qualitydigest.

5: TOPN: Fastener Quality Act | LII / Legal Information Institute

Fastener Quality Act Law and Legal Definition Fastener Quality Act (FQA) is provided under 15 USCS Â§ The FQA was enacted to protect public safety, deter introduction of nonconforming fasteners into U.S. commerce and provide increased assurance to fastener users that, products meet stated standards.

6: Fastener Industry Coalition | About Us

An Act To amend the Fastener Quality Act to strengthen the protection against the sale of mismarked, misrepresented, and counterfeit fasteners and eliminate unneces-sary requirements, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

7: The Fastener Quality Act | Fasteners, Inc. Denver CO

The OSS' Technical Standards Activities Program (TSAP) manages responsibilities assigned to NIST under the Fastener Quality Act (FQA) of Fasteners are a $6 billion U.S. industry critical to the automobile, aerospace, construction, chemical and manufacturing sectors.

8: Fastener Quality Act Amendments Act of (; th Congress H.R.) - www.enganchecubano.com

The Fastener Quality Act of , Public Law (as amended by Pub. L. , Pub. L. and Pub. L.) requires the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program for the recordation of the identifying insignia of certain fasteners.

9: Fastener Quality Act and ASTM A | American Galvanizer's Association

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