



Your uniform, your health

UPDATE: UNIFORM RECOMMENDATION

24 March 2017 update for AFA members at Envoy, Piedmont, PSA

Until now, AFA has been recommending that members who either have had a uniform reaction, or are pregnant/nursing/planning to be pregnant, opt out of the new uniforms into either "old blues" or gray uniform-like garments, per airline policies.

In mid-March 2017, we received the results of chemical testing on 14 of the TwinHill Flight Attendant garments on the property at Envoy, PSA, and Piedmont. As we have reported, the testing found 11 compounds in various garments. All of the compounds are irritants, three of them are sensitizers, two are confirmed human carcinogens, four are probable human carcinogens, and eight can disrupt hormones. Add these data to the list of chemicals found in company test results, obtained by AFA per OSHA standards.

Following our review of the chemical testing report on those 14 garments, AFA sent a letter to AA management, asking them to recall the garments, based on the chemicals in the fabrics and the symptoms documented by Flight Attendants. The company has not yet responded.

Since then, the company has announced plans to offer an alternate uniform supplied by Aramark to Flight Attendants at PSA, Piedmont, Envoy, and American Airlines. We are hopeful this could provide a suitable option, but we do not have any information on these new garments. To our knowledge, neither the chemical contents nor the production processing have been certified by a reliable third-party vendor for safety/health. We have formally asked American Airlines for a copy of fabric testing reports on these garments, but have not yet received those data. We are aware that AA maintenance workers are wearing Aramark, and we have received illness reports from some of those union members.

Given the results of chemical testing on the current TwinHill uniforms to-date, **we encourage all Flight Attendants to opt out of wearing the current uniforms:**

1. Everyone buy (and submit receipts to be reimbursed for) two tops and two gray uniform-like "bottoms." Do this even if you have "old blues";
2. If you have "old blues," keep what you need, but please donate the rest to your flying partners via your AFA safety committee representatives. Some AFA councils have organized (and are expanding) "Open Closets" of clean, donated items for members who need more pieces. Other councils are coordinating "old blues" donations via inflight;
3. Bag up your current uniforms and return them to the company.

Why do this? First, testing found some carcinogens and hormone disruptors in the garments, so not having a rash now is not enough assurance that the uniforms are safe to wear – precaution is the best approach. Second, all of us know some Flight Attendants whose rashes and coughing recur when they work around others wearing the uniforms, or are exposed to jumpseat harnesses that have residue from other uniforms. We are a family of Flight Attendants - let's take care of ourselves and each other. We are Stronger Together, Better Together.