

**PRODUCT ADVISORY NOTICE:**  
**Potential Increase in Attenuation Following Repeated**  
**Disassembly/Reassembly of:**  
**3M™ Large Size Current Version Single-Ended Combat Arms™ Earplugs**

December 15, 2010



Dear Customer:

This notice is to inform you of a potential issue with the large size (coyote brown) of the current version Single-Ended Combat Arms earplugs manufactured in 2010. These large size Single-Ended Combat Arms earplugs meet 3M's quality release plans; however, recently we discovered that under certain conditions the earplugs may not meet our expectations of performance in the field.

We have found that after vigorous handling of these large size earplug tips, such as repeated disconnecting and reconnecting them to the filter assembly, some material may flake off and partially obstruct the sound channel when the earplugs are in the "OPEN/Weapons Fire" position. If the sound channel becomes obstructed, the attenuation of a large size Combat Arms earplug may become higher than the 7 dB NRR reported for the "OPEN/Weapons Fire" position. This means that surrounding non-impulse sounds might be more difficult to hear when the earplugs are in the open position. Dirt and ear wax can also block the sound channel and result in the same potential increase in attenuation. As a result, it is important to follow 3M's recommended cleaning instructions to keep these earplugs clean and free from debris.

The NRR for the "CLOSED/Constant Protection" position remains unaffected by this potential issue, which means that attenuation (hearing protection) provided when the earplugs are in the "CLOSED/Constant Protection" position will remain unchanged.

Please note that this product advisory notice does not apply to the small (O.D. green) or medium (desert tan) size Combat Arms earplugs. Only the large size (coyote brown) version of the current version Single-Ended Combat Arms earplugs, which are depicted in the image here and described in the table below, are affected by this notice.



Product Number	3M ID#	Description
370-1032	70071561537	370-1032 SINGLE-SIDED COMBAT ARMS EARPLUG - LARGE 50 PR/CS

Since these products may not meet 3M's expectations for performance after vigorous handling, we suggest that you stop using large size (coyote brown) current version Single-Ended Combat Arms earplugs made prior to 2011. If you have questions or need replacement product, please contact Ted Madison, 3M Technical Services, by calling 651-575-5575 or e-mailing tkmadison@mmm.com. Please note that Ted will not be available from December 27 through 31; during this time period, please contact Doug Ohlin who can be reached by calling 410-688-3905 or e-mailing doug.ohlin@mmm.com.

3M is working to address this potential issue to reduce the risk of partial obstruction to the sound channel. We anticipate producing a modified product which addresses this risk in late January 2011.

We apologize for any difficulty this situation causes for you.

Best regards,

Richard Morris  
Business Director

Robert Weber  
Manager of Quality, Regulatory  
Affairs, and Technical Service