



Xenith, LLC  
1201 Woodward  
Detroit, MI 48226

August 17, 2016

To Our Customers:

At Xenith, we are committed to the athlete through development of innovative products and hold ourselves to the highest standards of excellence and performance in the industry.

Following a customer inquiry in late 2015, we began investigating if the polycarbonate shell of certain gloss or metallic-painted helmets could unexpectedly crack. We reviewed internal test and manufacturing protocols. We also retained an independent laboratory to perform additional testing and analysis from an external point of view.

The review identified the issue: a “flex” additive chemical compound, which prevents other coating components from causing embrittlement of the shell material, was not included in the paint mixture for gloss and metallic painted helmets from May 2015 through March 2016.

**We have since corrected this issue and implemented a solution so that all gloss or metallic-painted helmets manufactured since March 2016 include the “flex” additive chemical compound.**

To meet the highest standards of excellence and performance for our products, we made the decision to announce a voluntary recall of Xenith Epic Varsity, X2 Varsity, X2E Varsity and Youth football helmets with a gloss or metallic-painted polycarbonate shell sold or factory reconditioned from May 2015 through March 2016. This recall was announced in close coordination with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) on Wednesday, August, 17, 2016.

Fortunately, there have been no reported injuries related to this issue.

**Our focus now is working with our customers to replace helmets included in the recall with new helmets – at no cost to them and as quickly as possible.**

We apologize for the inconvenience this causes our customers. We recognize the trust players, parents and coaches place in us to provide high-quality and innovative products, and we will continue to work hard every day to earn that trust.

**Please follow the steps on [www.xenith.com/recall](http://www.xenith.com/recall) to check if your football helmet's serial number is included in this recall, or call us at 1-800-956-9022 for more information.** For your convenience, I have attached a list of frequently asked questions as well as a copy of the press release issued by the CPSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Sullivan".

Ryan Sullivan  
President



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## Questions and Answers

### **Why is the voluntary recall taking place?**

The shells of certain gloss or metallic painted football helmets could crack, posing a potential head injury hazard to the user. However, no injuries have been reported. Xenith is taking this voluntary corrective action in close coordination with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to ensure our products continue to meet the highest standards of excellence and performance. Fortunately, there have been no reported injuries related to this issue.

### **What football helmets are being voluntarily recalled?**

Only Xenith Epic Varsity, X2 Varsity, X2E Varsity and Youth football helmets with a gloss or metallic-painted polycarbonate shell sold or factory reconditioned from May 2015 through March 2016 are included in this recall.

- Injected color shells and matte painted shells are *not* included.
- Gloss or metallic painted polycarbonate helmets sold before or after May 2015 to March 2016 are *not* included.
- Football helmets reconditioned and painted by others (not Xenith) are *not* included.
- No other Xenith products are affected.

### **How did this happen?**

Following a customer inquiry in late 2015, we began investigating if the polycarbonate shell of certain gloss or metallic-painted helmets could unexpectedly crack. We reviewed internal test and manufacturing protocols. We also retained an independent laboratory to perform additional testing and analysis from an external point of view.

The review identified the issue problem: a “flex” additive chemical compound, which prevents other coating components from causing embrittlement of the shell material, was not included in the paint mixture for gloss and metallic painted helmets from May 2015 through March 2016.

We have since corrected this issue and implemented a solution so that all gloss or metallic-painted helmets manufactured since March 2016 include the “flex” additive chemical compound.

### **How do I determine if my helmets are included in the recall?**

Visit [www.xenith.com/recall](http://www.xenith.com/recall) or call us at 1-800-956-9022 to check if your football helmet's serial number is included in this recall.

If a football helmet is included in the voluntary recall, the teams and players should stop using them. Xenith will arrange for shipping, replacement and return of the helmets, at no charge.

We apologize for the inconvenience this causes our customers and are committed to working with you to get new helmets to your teams as quickly as possible.

### **How long will the whole process take?**

It will take approximately 8-10 business days. We are committed to delivery of new helmets as quickly as possible. If a helmet is needed sooner, Xenith will work to deliver a replacement helmet as soon as possible.



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**Why are you sharing this information now?**

We worked closely with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) as part of this in-depth investigation and review process.

We have also been working in close coordination with the CPSC in accordance with its recall protocol and we were not able disclose the information in advance of the voluntary recall in conjunction with the CPSC. Upon CPSC approval, Xenith announced the voluntary recall.

**Are Xenith helmets safe? How can you ensure that?**

Xenith is committed to meeting the highest standards of excellence and performance for our products. As part of our ongoing quality assurance process, we regularly test all of our products to ensure they meet the standards for certification set by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE), an independent research organization dedicated to creating performance standards for protective equipment in the U.S.

Xenith is the recognized industry leader in helmet technology and is the only manufacturer to exclusively produce Five-Star helmets under the widely accepted Virginia Tech rating system. Xenith football helmets feature Xenith Adaptive Head Protection® - a system of patented technologies designed to provide superior fit and to help minimize the sudden movement of the head during impact. Hundreds of thousands of players at all levels, including youth, high school, major college and the NFL wear Xenith helmets.

The Xenith EPIC Varsity Football Helmet is designed for players in high school, college and professional levels. The helmet ranked #1 in testing published with the 2015 NFL Health & Safety Report and is rated 5 STARS by the Virginia Tech Helmet Ratings™. Xenith X2E Varsity was also rated 5-STARS by the Virginia Tech Helmet Ratings™.

It is important to note there have been no reported injuries associated with the voluntarily recalled shells. We recognize the trust players, parents, and coaches place in us to provide high-quality and innovative products, and we will continue to work hard every day to earn that trust.



*U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – Recall*

**Recall Date:** August 17, 2016

## Xenith Recalls Football Helmets Due to Head Injury Hazard

### Recall Summary

**Name of Product:** Football helmets

**Hazard:** The shells of the football helmets could crack, posing a head injury hazard to the user.

**Remedy:** Replace

Football players should immediately stop using the recalled helmets. Football players, coaches and parents should contact Xenith to receive a free new replacement helmet.

**Consumer Contact:** Xenith at 800-956-9022 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at [www.xenith.com](http://www.xenith.com) and click on the “Helmet Shell Recall” link on the homepage for more information.

### Recall Details

**Units:** About 5,900

**Description:** This recall involves Xenith Epic Varsity, X2 Varsity, X2E Varsity and Youth football helmets with a gloss or metallic-painted polycarbonate shell sold or factory-reconditioned between May 1, 2015 and March 18, 2016. The helmets were sold in multiple sizes depending on the model, and in varying colors and custom-paint designs. They have a facemask and a chin cup, available in different styles and varying colors, and may have an optional eye shield. The serial number is printed on a white sticker inside the top of the helmet. A complete list of the serial numbers included in this recall is available at [www.xenith.com/recall](http://www.xenith.com/recall).

**Incidents/Injuries:** The firm received 29 reports of cracking helmets; no injuries reported.

**Sold at:** Through team dealers and direct school sales, and at BSN, Buddy's All Stars, Carey's Sporting Goods, End Zone Sports and Sports, Inc. and other stores nationwide and online at Eastbay.com, Footlocker.com, SafetyFirstSports.com, SportsUnlimitedInc.com and Xenith.com from May 2015 through March 2016 for between \$140 and \$400.

**Manufacturer:** Xenith LLC, of Detroit, Mich.

**Manufactured in:** U.S.

## Photos



Xenith Epic Varsity football helmet



Xenith X2E Varsity football helmet



The serial number is printed on a white sticker inside the top of the helmet.

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### **About U.S. CPSC:**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of thousands of types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries, and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$1 trillion annually. CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical or mechanical hazard. CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters and household chemicals – contributed to a decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 40 years.

Federal law bars any person from selling products subject to a publicly-announced voluntary recall by a manufacturer or a mandatory recall ordered by the Commission.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury go online to [www.SaferProducts.gov](http://www.SaferProducts.gov) or call CPSC's Hotline at 800-638-2772 or teletypewriter at 301-595-7054 for the hearing impaired. Consumers

can obtain news release and recall information at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov), on Twitter [@USCPSC](https://twitter.com/USCPSC) or by subscribing to CPSC's [free e-mail newsletters](#).

### **CPSC Consumer Information Hotline**

Contact us at this toll-free number if you have questions about a recall:

800-638-2772 (TTY 301-595-7054)

Times: 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. ET; Messages can be left anytime

Call to get product safety and other agency information and to [report unsafe products](#).

### **Media Contact**

Please use the phone numbers below for all media requests.

Phone: 301-504-7908

Spanish: 301-504-7800