

**Maybe it's not quite  
what you asked for...  
Or paid for...**



## **Product Substitution**

In a fraud scheme involving product substitution, a contractor misrepresents the product used in order to reduce costs for construction materials.

**Recognize and Report Fraud in  
Federally Funded Programs,  
Contracts, and Grants**

**(800) 424-9071**

*U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of Inspector General*

## Selected “Red Flag” Indicators of Product Substitution

- ✓ Any mismarking or mislabeling of products and materials
- ✓ Contractor restricting or avoiding inspection of goods or services upon delivery
- ✓ Contractor refusing to provide supporting documentation regarding production or manufacturing
- ✓ Photocopies of necessary certification, delivery, and production records where originals are expected
- ✓ Irregularities in signatures, dates, or quantities on delivery documents
- ✓ High rate of rejections, returns, or failures
- ✓ Test record reflecting no failures or a high failure rate but contract is on time and profitable
- ✓ Unsigned certifications
- ✓ Contractor offers to select samples for testing programs
- ✓ Supplier entertains or provides gratuities to inspection personnel

### Contact OIG using any of the following methods:

**Online complaint form:** [www.oig.dot.gov/dot-oig-hotline-complaint-form](http://www.oig.dot.gov/dot-oig-hotline-complaint-form)

**Telephone:** (800) 424-9071

**Fax:** (704) 556-0732

**E-mail:** [hotline@oig.dot.gov](mailto:hotline@oig.dot.gov)

**Mail:** USDOT Inspector General  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E., Room W73-104A  
Washington, DC 20590

*Note:* The OIG Hotline is obligated to expeditiously forward all safety-related complaints to USDOT’s safety regulatory agencies for action, as appropriate.



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