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
Telephone: (800) 424-9071
Fax: (704) 556-0732
E-mail: 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.