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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3-A SSI Offers New Mark for Replacement Parts and System Components

McLEAN, Virginia - 3-A SSI recently registered a new trademark in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for qualified items in the voluntary Replacement Parts and System Component Qualification Certificate (RPSCQC) Program. Participation in the RPSCQC Program is open to manufacturers of replacement parts or system components. The RPSCQC is beneficial to certificate holders and customers because it affirms that such parts or system components are compatible with the design criteria found in the relevant 3-A Sanitary Standard(s). The RPSCQC is often used in sales or marketing information.

Replacement parts include any items intended for use in equipment built in accordance to a 3-A Sanitary Standard or a processing system covered by one of the eligible 3-A Accepted Practices. A replacement part cannot be covered by its own 3-A Sanitary Standard to be eligible for participation in the program. System components are any components that can be supplied that conform to a 3-A Accepted Practice after the components are installed in a processing system. Participation in the voluntary program has been increasing steadily since the program began in 2007.

Use of the new mark is subject to the general licensing provisions of 3-A SSI, including the Third Party Verification (TPV) inspection of sample items by an accredited independent inspection authority, known as a Certified Conformance Evaluator (CCE). The applicant is responsible for obtaining the TPV inspection, which includes a site visit to the place of final manufacture or assembly. The applicant must submit a TPV report of conformance for certificate items and the certificate application to obtain approval to display the mark. The TPV inspection requirement enhances the recognition and the value of the mark for equipment fabricators, regulatory professionals and processors alike. 3-A SSI maintains all certificates on-line for public inspection.
Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) which hold a 3-A Symbol authorization or complete systems manufacturing/installation firms need not participate in this program. OEMs which have been granted a 3-A Symbol Authorization are considered as having met the requirements of this program for all associated replacement parts.

Complete details on the program and the new mark are available on the 3-A SSI web site at www.3-a.org under ‘Certificates’.

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3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to enhance product safety for consumers of food, beverages, and pharmaceutical products through the development and use of 3-A Sanitary Standards and 3-A Accepted Practices. Visit the 3-A SSI web site at www.3-a.org.