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Attorney General John Formella Office of the Attorney General NH Department of Justice 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 VIA E-MAIL: attorneygeneral@doj.nh.gov

4/21/2023

# Re: Notice of Data Incident

Dear Attorney General Formella:

We represent Tower Fasteners LLC ("Tower"), whose principal business office is located at 1690 North Ocean Avenue, Holtsville, NY 11742. We are writing to notify you on behalf of our clients of a data security incident involving 1 New Hampshire residents. This notice may be supplemented upon any further investigation. By providing this notice, Tower does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law, the applicability of the relevant state statute, or personal jurisdiction.

**Background:** On March 22, 2023, a phishing link containing malware was delivered to a Tower employee in Mexico. After the employee interacted with the link, the malware successfully encrypted a number of Tower systems. Our client's incident containment and remediation efforts began immediately after the discovery of the threat actor's intrusion, and included the decommission and restoration of a number of our computer systems. Once Tower restored the affected systems on March 29, 2023, its investigation revealed that the affected systems contained current and former employee personal information.

In response to the breach, Tower has deployed real-time monitoring, containment, and remediation software on every server and device to prevent any further unauthorized access to our systems. Tower also reset all user and administrative passwords. To ensure the security of its systems, Tower is reimaging all endpoints and restoring affected systems from clean disaster recovery backups. This process may take some time, but it is necessary to ensure that all compromised systems are fully restored and free of any malicious software. Furthermore, Tower is implementing multi-factor authentication for all employee accounts on a rolling basis. This added layer of security will help prevent unauthorized access to the Tower systems in the future.

**Notice to New Hampshire Residents:** We have determined that the number of New Hampshire residents potentially affected by this security incident is 1. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form the letter attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. Tower will begin mailing notice to impacted individuals subsequent to the transmittal of this letter, no later than April 25.

**Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken:** Tower is taking action to provide assistance to potentially affected individuals, even though it currently has no evidence of any misuse of or fraudulent activity relating to anyone's personal information as a result of this incident. Our clients are providing individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident with access to credit monitoring services for 24 months through Experian at no cost to the individuals.

Additionally, Tower is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud. These measures include advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. Our clients are also providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on their credit file, information on protecting against fraud, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

**Contact Information:** Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security incident, please contact us at

Very truly yours,

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP

/s/ Scott A. Carlson

Scott A. Carlson

SC/dr





Tower Fasteners LLC 1690 North Ocean Avenue Holtsville, NY 11742

[Insert Recipient's Name] [Insert Address] [Insert City, State, Zip]

[Date]

## RE: Important Security Notification. Please read this entire letter.

## Dear [First Name] [Last Name]:

**What Happened:** We are writing to notify you that Tower Fasteners LLC, ("Tower" or "we") recently experienced a data security incident that may have involved some of your personal information. On March 22, 2023, a phishing link containing malware was delivered to a Tower associate in Mexico. After the employee interacted with the link, the malware successfully encrypted a number of Tower systems. Our incident containment and remediation efforts began immediately after the discovery of the threat actor's intrusion and included the decommission and restoration of a number of our computer systems. Once we restored the affected systems on March 29, 2023, our investigation revealed that the affected systems contained current and former associate personal information.

In response to the breach, we have deployed real-time monitoring, containment and remediation software on every server and device to prevent any further unauthorized access to our systems. We have also reset all user and administrative passwords. To ensure the security of our systems, we are reimaging all endpoints and restoring affected systems from clean disaster recovery backups. This process may take some time, but it is necessary to ensure that all compromised systems are fully restored and free of any malicious software. Furthermore, we are implementing multi-factor authentication for all associate accounts on a rolling basis. This added layer of security will help prevent unauthorized access to our systems in the future.

What Information was Involved: We have investigated the affected systems and identified the following categories of your personal information that may have been accessed by the threat actors:

We understand that this may be concerning to you, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We want to assure you that we are taking every possible step to safeguard your personal information and prevent any further incidents.

What We are Doing to Protect Your Information: To help protect your identity, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> for 24 months.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed then an Experian Identity Restoration agent will be available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for 24 months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is <u>immediately available to you</u>, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary 24-month membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you enroll by [Enrollment End Date] (Your code will not work after this date.)
- Visit the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: [Enrollment URL]
- Provide your activation code: [Activation Code]

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident, or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at [Experian TFN] by [Enrollment End Date]. Be prepared to provide engagement number as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- Experian credit report at signup: See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.\*
- Credit Monitoring: Actively monitors Experian file for indicators of fraud.

 Identity Restoration: Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

■ Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE<sup>TM</sup>: You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.

• \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance\*\*: Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

**For More Information.** We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern caused by this incident. If you have further questions or concerns, or would like an alternative to enrolling online, please call [Experian TFN] toll-free Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Central, or Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Central (excluding major U.S. holidays). Be prepared to provide your engagement number

What You Can Do: We encourage you to remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and monitoring credit report information. You can also obtain information about fraud alerts and security freezes from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the credit reporting agencies listed below:

- Federal Trade Commission, <u>https://www.ftc.gov</u>, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580 1-877-FTC-HELP
- Nationwide Consumer Reporting Companies:
  - Equifax, <u>https://www.equifax.com</u>, Equifax Credit Information Services, LLC, P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, 1-800-525-6285
  - Experian, <u>https://www.experian.com</u>, Experian National Consumer Assistance Center, P.O. Box 4500, Allen, TX 75013, 1-888-397-3742
  - TransUnion, <u>https://www.transunion.com</u>, TransUnion Consumer Relations, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016-2000, 1-800-680-7289

To the extent you desire to freeze your credit report, you must separately place a credit freeze on your credit file at each of the three credit reporting agencies. There is no charge associated with placing a credit freeze. The following information should be included when requesting a credit freeze:

- 1) Full name, with middle initial and any suffixes;
- 2) Social Security number;
- 3) Date of birth (month, day, and year);
- 4) Current address and previous addresses for the past five (5) years;
- 5) Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6) Other personal information as required by the applicable credit reporting agency.

**For New York Residents:** For more information on how to avoid identity theft, you may contact the New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection; and New York State Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, https://ag.ny.gov

Sincerely,

### Geeta Kapoor

Vice President – Information Security MSC Industrial Supply Co.

<sup>\*</sup> Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.