

# NEWS

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## Kawasumi Laboratories America supports needle safety for medical practitioners; Announces availability of K-Shield® Advantage Winged Blood Collection Set

TAMPA, FL – With estimates of more than 600,000 accidental needle sticks in medical settings yearly, and federal and state fines being levied in the thousands of dollars for violations of needlestick safety standards, Kawasumi Laboratories America announces the availability of the performance enhanced K-Shield® Advantage Winged Blood Collection Set.

The K-Shield Advantage is designed to eliminate accidental needlestick injuries suffered by nurses and other medical staff by allowing them to safely, easily cover the needle in a protective sheath with one hand as it is withdrawn from the patient.

Additionally, the practitioner can still use the standard two-handed technique if they prefer, so there is no need for additional in-service training in how to use the K-Shield Advantage. This design feature sets the K-Shield Advantage apart from the competition.

### **TRULY OSHA COMPLIANT**

Providing the K-Shield Advantage for use by medical practitioners brings employers into compliance with the requirements of Rule 1910.1030 of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act of 2000.

“Some similar products claim they are in full OSHA compliance, while they are not,” said Tony Serna, Kawasumi America’s Manager of IV Products.

“And, because of the increasing incidence of accidental needle sticks, 21 U.S. states now have laws on the books providing for state sanctions and fines for non-compliance with federal and state rules regulating occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens,” said Serna. “User safety was the guiding principle in development of the unique K-Shield Advantage design.”

Serna said 200,000 units of the K-Shield Advantage Winged Blood Collection Set featuring the latest technology are entering the U.S. market now following a September production run at Kawasumi’s super-clean manufacturing facilities in Thailand.

While the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate some 800,000 accidental needlestick injuries occur in the U.S. annually, the medical forum [www.needlestick.com](http://www.needlestick.com) puts the number at between 600,000 and 1 million annually.

“If these numbers are to be cut substantially, clearly there is a dire need for all facilities that draw blood to require awareness of the availability of ultra-modern needlestick prevention technology for all staff,” commented Serna.

#### **ABOUT KAWASUMI LABORATORIES AMERICA**

Kawasumi Laboratories America, Inc. (KLA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kawasumi Laboratories, Inc.(KL), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. KL have been providing high quality, cost-effective, medical supplies worldwide since 1957.

Located in Tampa, FL, KLA is the main distribution center for both North and South America. KLA was incorporated in 1991, and is dedicated to maintaining the quality and standards set by the parent company.

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