

XLT/SKYBLAZER II QUARANTINE/RECALL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Updated April 7, 2026

- Q: We have a flare that is part of the quarantine/recall. What do we do now?
A: See the recommendation for how to quarantine/store the recalled flares on our website. For consumers who have purchased product from a retailer or dealer, we have posted instructions on how to get reimbursement for the affected product:
<https://www.orionsignals.com/project/recall-notices/>
- Q: What is the likelihood additional lots are affected?
A: We believe we have identified all potentially impacted lots/expiration dates. At this time, we do not anticipate expanding the recall notice to include additional lots or expiration dates.
- Q: Any updates or details about the investigation?
A: All updates will be posted on our website at:
<https://www.orionsignals.com/project/recall-notices/>
- Q: How will pick-up of the quarantined product be arranged?
A: We continue to investigate the issue and any and all updates will be posted on our website at: <https://www.orionsignals.com/project/recall-notices/>
- Q: Did Orion report this Skyblazer/XLT recall to the FAA?
A: We manufacture flares to the requirements of the US Coast Guard. We do not manufacture, pack, or sell flare kits to the Aviation Industry, but we understand that some of our customers do purchase our product and create kits used in the Aviation Industry. Orion has met with FAA personnel to discuss the situation.
- Q: Are there any Skyblazer XLT products available for purchase that are NOT part of the quarantine/recall notice?
A: While Orion has had a new version of the Skyblazer XLT approved by the US Coast Guard under the name Skyblazer III Red Aerial Flare, this version of the Skyblazer XLT is only available to certain aviation customers and only through December 15, 2026. The Skyblazer XLT has been discontinued for the marine market.
- Q: Is the Skyblazer XLT being discontinued?
A: Yes, the Skyblazer XLT is being discontinued. While the Skyblazer III XLT was approved by the US Coast Guard on January 29, 2026, the Skyblazer XLT (including the Skyblazer III) has been discontinued for the marine market starting January 1, 2026. Marine customers can purchase the #528 (16.5mm aerial signal kit) or other Orion products as an alternative to the #859 (4-pack of Skyblazer XLTs). For certain aviation customers and liferaft repackers that have complex product transition requirements, the Skyblazer III XLTs will be discontinued after December 15, 2026.
- Q: Why is the Skyblazer XLT being discontinued?

- A. While the Skyblazer XLT signals have proven to be robust and reliable signals over the past 30 years and have a loyal customer following, Orion has determined to discontinue the manufacture and sale of these signals. For marine markets, the Skyblazer XLT is no longer available after January 1, 2026. For certain aviation customers and liferaft repackers, the Skyblazer III will no longer be available after December 15, 2026. The Skyblazer XLT signals are difficult to manufacture, material sourcing is challenges and the product is significantly more labor intensive than comparable Orion signals. Orion has a broad offering of aerial signals that serve the same function such that it no longer makes sense to support the Skyblazer XLT product line when more cost effective alternatives exist.
- Q. I would like to confirm which Orion flare models are currently recommended for use in an aircraft emergency kit.
- A. We cannot make any recommendations for an “aircraft emergency kit”, as we do not produce, manufacture or assemble Aircraft Emergency Kits. We are manufacturers of US Coast Guard approved signals for marine emergency use.
- Q. What will be the immediate replacement action on these flares with “good units”?
- A. We have posted an on-line reimbursement form on the website for consumers which covers the product subject to the recall. Marine customers have a wide assortment of Orion products to choose from as a replacement for the Skyblazer XLTs. If the compact size is critical, we urge marine customers to look at the 16.5mm Aerial Signal Kit (#528). For aviation customers and liferaft repackers, the Skyblazer III XLT (#855 and 855A) is available through December 15, 2026.
- Q. What action has Orion taken with authorities?
- A. Our products are manufactured to the requirements of the US Coast Guard. We have notified the USCG as well as the Consumer Product Safety Commission. We have also had conversations with the FAA.
- Q. When will I receive reimbursement for the quarantined product?
- A. We have posted an on-line reimbursement form on the website for consumers who have purchased product from a retailer or dealer which covers the product subject to the recall: <https://www.orionsignals.com/project/recall-notices/>
- Q. When will new product be available?
- A. Marine customers have a wide assortment of Orion products to choose from as a replacement for the Skyblazer XLTs and such signals and kits are available immediately. If the compact size is critical, we urge marine customers to look at the 16.5mm Aerial Signal Kit (#528). For aviation customers and liferaft repackers, the Skyblazer III XLT (#855 and 855A) has been available since February 2026 and will continue to be available through December 15, 2026.
- Q. As I quarantine product, are there any special precautions I should take?

- A. Orion's internal testing of the recalled product supports the argument that the recalled product is stable and safe to store and handle absent the application of extreme force (e.g., impact or friction). Nonetheless, proper safety protocols should always be followed when handling pyrotechnic devices. As such, when isolating and quarantining your product, observe the following precautions:
- Never point the exit/launch end of the signal at yourself or anyone else
 - Pyrotechnics are flammable and as such should never be stored near a heat source or combustible materials
 - Keep out of reach of children
- Q. What happened with the one Skyblazer II/XLT signal that ignited at a customer without the safety cap being removed or the ignition chain being pulled?
- A. The customer reported to Orion that it was packing a liferaft with safety equipment and the Skyblazer II/XLT signal had been vacuum-sealed in a bag with other safety items. The liferaft re-packer employee was "working the liferaft into the fixture" by using a mallet shortly before the signal ignited. The employee heard a hissing sound and upon inspection learned that a flare had ignited. It burned in place, melting the vacuum-sealed bag surrounding the signal, and self-extinguished (i.e., the Skyblazer II/XLT star within the flare burns at a high temperature for approx. 8 seconds).
- Q: Are the XLT products identified on the quarantine/recall notice the same as Orion's Skyblazer II products?
- A: Yes, the XLT products and the Skyblazer II are synonymous. They are the same products. The Skyblazer III is an entirely new product utilizing different materials and manufacturing processes.
- Q: My signal does not have an expiration date so how do I know if my signal is subject to the Recall/Quarantine?
- A: Other than Orion Product # 855A, all Skyblazer II/XLT signals have an expiration date printed on the signal itself. The 855A includes the "Date of Manufacture" on the label as opposed to the expiration date. The Recall/Quarantine applies to all Skyblazer II/XLTs with expiration date of August 2028 through April 2029. For Part No. 855A, the Recall/Quarantine applies to all manufacture dates of March 2025 through November 2025.