

To: Owners of Scott AV-3000 Facepiece

From: Rick Hofmeister

Subject: AV-3000 Facepiece

Date: January 8, 2008

Scott Health and Safety has received several reports of AV-3000 facepiece tabs separating in the field. Scott, in conjunction with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), launched an investigation into the root cause of this condition. The joint investigation concluded that there is no fault with the AV-3000 facepiece material including the tabs. The investigation did demonstrate, however, that improper facepiece donning technique may generate sufficient force to tear the facepiece tabs. The purpose of this correspondence is to reinforce the importance of the proper facepiece donning technique via the attached Technical Bulletin in order to lessen or eliminate AV-3000 facepiece tab failures by Scott users.

An extensive product quality test plan was designed attempting to replicate AV-3000 tabs tearing as reported from the field. During the product testing process it was discovered that donning the AV-3000 facepiece and pulling the head harness straps outward and away from the wearer's head requires greater force to achieve a good face to facepiece seal. This additional force applied during the donning or facepiece tightening process in turn creates additional force on the facepiece tabs which may result in facepiece tab separation. Conversely, when donning the AV-3000 facepiece properly by pulling the head harness straps straight back as shown in the attached Technical Bulletin (and as recommended in Scott's Operations and User Manuals), the force necessary to achieve a good face to facepiece seal is reduced. While there are tens of thousands of Scott AV-3000 facepieces in service today whose users have not experienced facepiece tab separation, Scott is committed to the health and safety of all its customers. To that end, we take any product-related issue very seriously and will work with our AV-3000 users on any questions or concerns they may have regarding proper donning procedures.

Scott Health and Safety continues to stand behind its products and supports the owners of this equipment. If at any time the owners of the AV-3000 facepiece experience any damage of the facepiece, remove the facepiece from service and contact Scott for further assistance.

Cordially,



Rick Hofmeister
Service Group Manager

Concerning SCOTT AV-3000® Facepieces

DATE: January 8, 2008

TO: All Users of SCOTT AV-3000® Facepieces

SOME USERS OF AV-3000 FACEPIECES HAVE REPORTED SEPARATION OF THE HEAD HARNESS FROM THE FACEPIECE AT THE RUBBER ATTACHMENT TAB. SEPARATION OF THE TAB MAY RESULT IN EXPOSING THE USER TO THE ATMOSPHERE THE RESPIRATOR WAS INTENDED TO PROTECT THE USER AGAINST.

Carefully review this entire notice before taking action.

SCOTT has learned that some AV-3000 facepieces have separated at the rubber tab which connects the head harness to the facepiece seal and lens.



FIGURE 1
AV-3000 Facepiece

Based on laboratory testing, the force needed to damage the facesal is well beyond what is needed to properly don a facepiece and achieve a good face-to-facepiece seal. As a result, most users have not experienced damage to their equipment. To achieve a good face-to-facepiece seal, the AV-3000 facepiece requires less tension on the head harness straps than some of the other SCOTT Facepiece Models. This may lead some users to over tighten the straps on the AV-3000 facepiece.

Because reducing the potential of any risk begins with basic procedures, SCOTT is reminding users to follow the steps in the Operation and Maintenance instructions regarding donning the facepiece. Prior to donning your facepiece, inspect your respirator as discussed in your organized respiratory protection program or as discussed in the Operations and Maintenance instructions originally supplied with your respirator. Additional copies of the Operations and Maintenance instructions are available from SCOTT upon request.

DONNING THE AV-3000 FACEPIECE

To begin use of respirator, don the facepiece (i.e., place facepiece on face and obtain a proper seal) as follows:

1. Examine the facepiece assembly to be certain the nose cup inhalation valves are installed, the nose cup is correctly positioned inside the face seal chin cup, and nose cup is properly seated between the flanges of the voicemitter ducts.
2. Adjust the head straps to the full outward position.
3. Hold the head harness out of the way with one hand while placing the facepiece on the face with the other hand.

NOTE

ENSURE THAT THE CHIN IS PROPERLY LOCATED IN THE CHIN POCKET OF THE FACEPIECE.

4. Pull the head harness over the head and ensure that straps are lying flat against the head and neck with no twists.

NOTE

IF THE FACEPIECE IS EQUIPPED WITH A RUBBER HEAD HARNESS, POSITION THE TOP CENTER OVER THE CROWN OF THE HEAD. MAINTAIN THE HEAD HARNESS IN THIS POSITION WHILE TIGHTENING THE STRAPS.

5. Tighten the neck straps by pulling the two lower strap ends toward the rear of the head.



**FIGURE 2
PULLING THE TWO
LOWER STRAPS**

6. Verify that the head harness is lying flat against the back of the head by stroking the harness using one or both hands. Retighten neck straps.

7. Adjust the temple straps by pulling the two upper strap ends toward the rear of the head. Use caution pulling temple straps as over tightening may cause discomfort.



**FIGURE 3
PULLING THE TWO
UPPER STRAPS**

8. Retighten the neck straps if required. Note, on subsequent use by the same wearer, release and retightening of the temple straps may not be required.
9. With facepiece sealed to face, check face to facepiece seal and placing your hand over the regulator port on the front of the facepiece, then inhaling and listening for air leaks, and exhaling and listening for air leaks.

If leakage of air is detected during either of the above procedures, remove the facepiece and repeat donning steps 1 through 8 above. If a user seal check is unsatisfactory either per the user instructions above or the OSHA fit testing process, the use of Mask Seal Kit P/N 805655-01 is required. The Mask Seal Kit is provided with the full facepiece. Refer to the INSTALLATION AND USE INSTRUCTIONS, SCOTT P/N 89462-01, included with the Mask Seal Kit. This is a NIOSH approved kit to enhance the fit of the facepiece. If leakage persists, do not use the respirator.

10. Put on, or replace, helmet or other required protective head gear and put on or properly position and close any required protective clothing such as turn out gear. The user of the respirator must make certain that any protective head gear, helmet or protective clothing does not interfere with the use of the respirator and that the head can move freely without dislodging the facepiece or disturbing the face to facepiece seal.

When donning the facepiece the user should only pull hard enough to secure the facepiece to the head and achieve a good face to facepiece seal. To achieve a good face-to-facepiece seal, the AV-3000 facepiece requires less tension on the head harness straps than some of the other SCOTT Facepiece Models. This may lead some users to over tighten the straps on the AV-3000 facepiece. If you have any questions regarding donning a facepiece to achieve a good facepiece seal, contact the administrator of your organized respiratory protection program.

REPORTING PROBLEMS

If a separation or other damage occurs, do not use the facepiece. Remove the facepiece from service in accordance with your respiratory protection program. If you have experienced a problem with the AV-3000 Facepiece and need replacement information, contact SCOTT at 1-800-247-7257 (or 704-291-8300 outside the continental United States).



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