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February 11, 2009

**To: Users of Air Masks Equipped with a Universal Rescue Connection (URC) or Quick-Fill® Coupling containing a date code within the range of “18207” through “30508”**

On January 14, 2009, MSA issued a *User Advisory* concerning the possibility that certain Universal Rescue Connection (URC) or Quick-Fill couplings may not connect or may leak while connected. Users were instructed to inspect their air masks and remove from service all air masks with couplings displaying date codes within the above range until the coupling is tested.

MSA has prepared the attached coupling function test for users to perform on air masks equipped with affected couplings in order to efficiently determine if the coupling functions properly or must be replaced. This is an alternative to an MSA certified repair person performing the necessary coupling function test as indicated in the *User Advisory*.

Air masks containing couplings that do not pass the function test must remain out of service until the coupling is replaced. Please contact your local MSA Authorized Air Mask Maintenance Center to replace any couplings that do not pass the function test. Only MSA certified repair persons are authorized to replace the coupling. Should you prefer not to perform the test, you may arrange for an MSA certified repair person to perform the test as well as replace any couplings that do not function properly.

As indicated in the *User Advisory*, air masks equipped with couplings displaying a date code outside the range identified above are not affected and may remain in service.

We trust that this alternative method of evaluating affected couplings will help reduce any potential air mask down time. If needed, the original *User Advisory* may be viewed at: <http://www.msanorthamerica.com/noticeindex.html>. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 877-672-3473 or 412-967-3000.

Very truly yours,

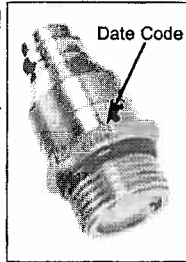
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles J. Seibel, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety

PPL08031-18

## QUICK-FILL® SYSTEM and URC COUPLING FUNCTION TEST - 2216/4500 psig

As indicated in the User Advisory, end users or MSA certified repair persons shall perform the following Quick-Fill and URC function test to verify proper function of couplings with affected date codes (18207 to 30508).



In addition, perform the following test on all Quick-Fill System and URC couplings as part of the air mask annual flow test. **Couplings that do not pass this function test must be replaced by MSA certified repair persons.**

### Testing Two 2216 psig couplings or two 4500 psig couplings

Transfill Hose

PN 488917

#### ⚠ WARNING

**Do not lose control of the transfill hose coupling while performing this test. Work in an open area away from walls or other structures that could cause injury if struck. High pressure air can cause couplings to release unexpectedly, striking you or propelling your limbs into nearby structures or objects. Failure to follow this warning can result in serious person injury or death.**

#### Testing the First coupling

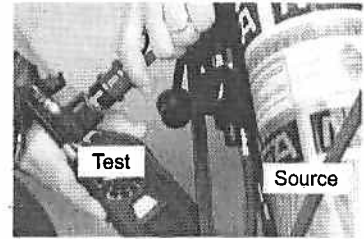
1. This procedure alternates between two air masks. After testing the Quick-Fill or URC couplings on one air mask, use it as a pressure **source** to test another air mask.
2. Ensure cylinders on both air masks are full.
3. Ensure that regulators on both air masks are closed.
4. Remove dust covers from Quick-Fill/URC couplings.
5. Fully open the cylinder valves on both air masks.

6. Connect one end of transfill hose to the **source** Quick-Fill or URC coupling.



7. Connect the other end to the **test** fitting.

Transfilling begins immediately.



8. Tug on the hose to verify a secure connection to the **test** coupling.
9. Immediately after verifying a secure connection, disconnect the transfill hose from the **source**.

10. To disconnect the transfill hose, pull back the gray sleeve.



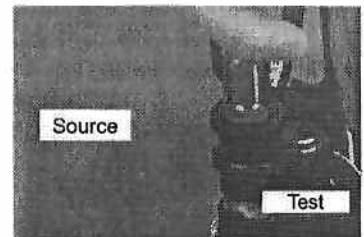
**Note:** The coupling may hiss or pop as it separates and high pressure airflow stops.

11. Replace the **test** Quick-Fill/URC coupling if:
  - Unable to make a secure connection because of air pressure resistance.
  - Extreme or continuous air loss occurs.
12. Keep a record of, or mark, air masks that pass the test before returning them to service.

#### Testing the Next Air Mask

The last **test** coupling becomes the **source** coupling. The next fitting is the **test** coupling.

1. Connect the transfill hose to the next **test** fitting.



2. Tug on the hose to verify a secure connection to the **test** fitting.
3. Immediately after verifying a secure connection, disconnect the transfill hose from the **test** fitting.

## QUICK-FILL SYSTEM and URC COUPLING FUNCTION TEST - 3000 psig

- Continue alternating **test** and **source** air masks until all couplings on all air masks have been tested.

### Procedure for testing 3000 psig couplings Quick-Fill Hose Assembly PN 487428

#### ⚠ WARNING

**Do not lose control of the transfill hose coupling while performing this test. Work in an open area away from walls or other structures that could cause injury if struck. High pressure air can cause couplings to release unexpectedly, striking you or propelling your limbs into nearby structures or objects. Failure to follow this warning can result in serious person injury or death.**

**Note:** This procedure uses a spare cylinder as a pressure **source**. To prevent the relief valve from venting, limit source pressure to 2400 psig.

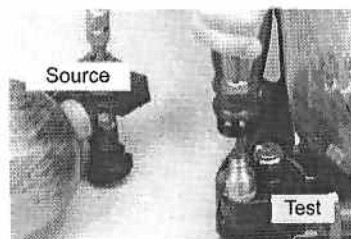
- Ensure the air mask cylinder is full and that the spare cylinder pressure is between 2200 and 2400 psig.
- Ensure that regulators are closed.
- Remove dust covers from Quick-Fill/URC couplings.

- Connect a Quick Fill Adapter hose to a spare 2400 psig **source** cylinder.



- Fully open both cylinder valves.

- Slowly connect the Quick Fill Adapter hose to the **test** coupling.



- Tug on the hose to verify a secure connection to the **test** coupling.



- Immediately after verifying a secure connection, disconnect the transfill hose from the **source**.

- To disconnect the transfill hose, pull back the gray sleeve.



**Note:** The coupling may hiss or pop as it separates and high pressure airflow stops.

- Replace the **test** Quick-Fill/URC coupling if:
  - Unable to make a secure connection because of air pressure resistance.
  - Extreme or continuous air loss occurs.
- Keep a record of, or mark, air masks that pass the test before returning them to service.
- Continue testing air masks until all couplings on all air masks have been tested.