



Mine Safety Appliances Company • P.O. Box 426 • Pittsburgh, PA 15230

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Writers Direct Dial No.

## **User Advisory**

### **FiveStar® Alarm**

(Supersedes September 17, 2003 User Advisory)

December 4, 2003

**To: All users of FiveStar Alarms used in non-mining applications where Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) approval is not required**

MSA is issuing this *User Advisory* at the request of and with the approval of MSHA. It applies to FiveStar Alarms bearing MSHA approval labels 8C-67-0 and 8C-67-1 or re-labeled in accordance with our September 17, 2003 *User Advisory*. MSA voluntarily requested that MSHA withdraw the approval on these instruments because they failed to pass certain MSHA drop tests. Although they continue to meet all product specifications and all applicable MET Electrical Testing Company (MET) and Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approval requirements, they can no longer be used in mining applications.

MSA is issuing this new advisory to provide **non-mining users** with the following two options to help ensure the proper use and performance of their MSA instrument:

#### **Option #1 - Replace the FiveStar Alarm:**

Under MSA's new trade-in program, you can replace your FiveStar Alarm for one of the following instruments at a discounted price:

- New FiveStar Alarm with MET approval (United States) and CSA approval (Canada).
- New Orion® Multigas Detector with UL approval (United States) and cUL approval (Canada).
- New Solaris™ Multigas Detector with UL approval (United States) and cUL approval (Canada).

#### **Option #2 – Retain the FiveStar Alarm:**

If you choose to retain your FiveStar Alarm and have not yet re-labeled it, it must be re-labeled to cover the MSHA approval label in accordance with our September 17, 2003 *User Advisory*. Additionally, you must calibrate the instrument. If the combustible gas sensor does not calibrate as required in the instruction manual, MSA will provide a replacement sensor to you at no cost.

LOCATION RIDC Industrial Park • 121 Gamma Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

If you have questions regarding these options, please contact MSA Customer Service toll free at 1-866-MSA-0005. MSA requests that users contact MSA Customer Service to choose one of the above options **as soon as possible, but no later than June 4, 2004.**

Reason for Withdrawing the MSHA Approval:

On April 1 and April 3 2003, MSHA issued Program Information Bulletins (PIB No. P03-06 and P03-07) instructing mine operators to discontinue use of the subject FiveStar Alarms after determining that the instruments may provide inaccurate readings after being dropped.

After evaluating the condition reported by MSHA, MSA determined that the combustible gas sensor and not the circuit board, as indicated in the PIB's, caused those inaccurate readings. After determining that an upgrade of these instruments, to obtain MSHA compliance, was not practicable, thereafter MSA requested that MSHA withdraw the approval and issued the September 17, 2003 *User Advisory* to require the re-labeling of FiveStar Alarms used in non-mining applications. Once a FiveStar Alarm is re-labeled, it is no longer MSHA-approved and, therefore, is no longer subject to the requirements specified in the MSHA PIB's. MSA took this action primarily because MSHA approval is not required for instruments used in non-mining applications. MSHA's required drop test for instruments used in mining applications is different than those tests conducted by other certification agencies including MET and CSA. MSA FiveStar Alarms must be recalibrated if they are dropped.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this *User Advisory*, please contact MSA Customer Service toll free at 1-866-MSA-0005.

Very truly yours,



Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety