



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

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Writers Direct Dial No.

## **Important User Notice** **FiveStar® Alarm**

September 17, 2003

**To: All users of FiveStar Alarms used in mining applications where Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) approval is required.**

On April 1, 2003, MSHA issued a Program Information Bulletin (PIB) [No. P03-06]. The PIB directed Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel, coal and metal and nonmetal mine operators, miners' representatives and repair shops to discontinue use of the FiveStar Alarm. Over the past several months, MSA has thoroughly investigated the issue raised by MSHA; and on July 24, 2003, MSA received an extension to the FiveStar Alarm (8C-67-2). As a result, MSA is replacing all FiveStar Alarms used in mining applications that require MSHA approval with this newly approved version. Please review this notice entirely and take the action specified in order to comply with MSHA approval requirements.

The MSHA Approval Number for this new FiveStar Alarm version is "8C-67-2" and is indicated on the instrument approval label. This approval was announced by MSHA in a PIB issued on September 4, 2003. Please contact MSA Customer Service (toll free) at 1-866-MSA-0005 to arrange for the return of all FiveStar Alarms in your possession displaying an earlier approval number of 8C-67-0 or 8C-67-1. Upon return of these units to MSA, we will ship to you new replacement FiveStar Alarms. In addition, only those battery packs having a date code of G03 (July 2003) or later may be used with the 8C-67-2 version of the instrument.

**A FiveStar Alarm having an approval number of 8C-67-2 with a battery pack having a date code of G03 or later must be used in order to maintain MSHA compliance. Other versions of the instrument and battery pack are not MSHA compliant (specifically instruments labeled 8C-67-0 and 8C-67-1). In addition, the sampling pump is not an MSHA approved accessory.**

If your FiveStar Alarms are not used in mining applications requiring MSHA approval, if you have any questions, or if you need to make arrangements to obtain replacement FiveStar Alarms, contact MSA Customer Service at 1-866-MSA-0005.

Very truly yours,

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.  
Manager of Product Safety