



The Safety Company

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

Telephone: (412) 967-3000

Writers Direct Dial No.

User Notice

Advantage[®] 1000 and 3200 CBA-RCA (CS/CN) Respirators
Millennium[®] Chemical-Biological (CS/CN) Respirator/Gas Mask
Phalanx[™] Alpha and Beta CBA-RCA (CS/CN) Gas Masks
Ultra-Elite[®] CBA-RCA (CS/CN) Gas Mask

August 20, 2007

MSA has determined through additional quality testing that certain canisters used on the above respirators and gas masks may not be effective against chemical warfare agents as indicated on the canister packaging and other information describing these products. These canisters contain a pleated high-efficiency (P-100) filter designed to remove aerosols and solid particulates and an impregnated activated carbon bed to adsorb (filter out) gases and liquid vapors. Our findings indicate that the carbon bed may become loose during transportation, rough handling, and extended carrying of the respirator/gas mask, which can result in reduced service time against gases and vapors during use.

This *User Notice* affects the following replaceable respirator/gas mask canisters manufactured from August 2003 through February 2007:

- 818264(6/Box)/818263(individual) – Riot Control Agent Gas Mask Canisters, Millennium P100/CS/CN
- 817591(6/Box)/817589(individual) – Riot Control Agent Gas Mask Canisters, Phalanx P100/CS/CN

Since these canisters have a four (4) year shelf-life, affected canisters are marked with an expiration date ranging from August 2007 through February 2011. The applicable part number and expiration date appear on the canister label, as well as the sealed bag containing the canister, and the box containing replacement canisters. Canisters manufactured after February 2007 (expiration date after February 2011) are not affected by this *User Notice*. Canisters manufactured before August 2003 are already expired and must not be used. The affected canisters have threaded connections – canisters that attach to the facepiece with a bayonet style connection are not affected.

Do Not use the above gas mask canisters, with expiration dates ranging from August 2007 through February 2011, for protection against chemical warfare agents.

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

Use of the above Respirators/Gas Mask against CS/CN: Since the P-100 filter will remove nearly all of the tear gas from the inspired air, the above gas mask canisters are effective against riot control agents CS and CN. However, due to the above described condition, the affected canisters do not meet NIOSH service time requirements. If using these canisters against tear gas, the approach of the end of the canister service life as indicated by eye, nose, or throat irritation would be readily detectable to the wearer. If used against tear gas, it is important that these canisters be replaced after each use, as stated in the instructions.

MSA has tested and revised these canisters to enable them to withstand the effects of vibration during transportation, rough handling, and extended carrying. MSA will replace affected canisters with the new revised canister free of charge.

Please complete the attached form, indicating the quantity of affected canisters in your possession. To be considered for this replacement, the canisters **MUST** be in their original unopened foil bag. Fax the completed form to MSA Customer Service at 1-800-967-0398 to arrange for canister replacement. When we receive the form, we will ship the new revised canisters to you. You will also receive an invoice for the replacement canisters; however, the invoice will be cancelled when the affected canisters are returned, provided the affected canisters are returned within 60 days of the invoice date.

MSA regrets any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, we trust that you will accept our indicated measures to address this potential safety concern. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-MSA-2222.

Very truly yours,



Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety



Riot Control Agent Canister Replacement Form

Please complete the information below and fax this form to MSA Customer Service at 1-800-967-0398. MSA will ship the appropriate number of new revised canisters to you. We will also send you a Return Authorization Number, shipping instructions and a UPS account number to use when returning affected canisters to MSA. Although you will receive an invoice for the replacement canisters, the invoice will be cancelled when the same quantity of affected canisters are returned, provided they are returned within 60 days.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

This replacement program recall involves Riot Control Agent Canisters with expiration dates ranging from August 2007 through February 2011. To be considered for this upgrade, the canisters **MUST** be in their original unopened foil bag.

Please indicate the quantity of affected canisters that you will be returning:

- Quantity of boxes of six (6) Millennium P-100/CS/CN Riot Control Agent Canisters (P/N 818264) _____
- Quantity of individual Millennium P-100/CS/CN Riot Control Agent Canisters (P/N 818263) _____
- Quantity of boxes of six (6) Phalanx P-100/CS/CN Riot Control Agent Canisters (P/N 817591) _____
- Quantity of individual Phalanx P-100/CS/CN Riot Control Agent Canisters (P/N 817589) _____

If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-MSA-2222.